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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

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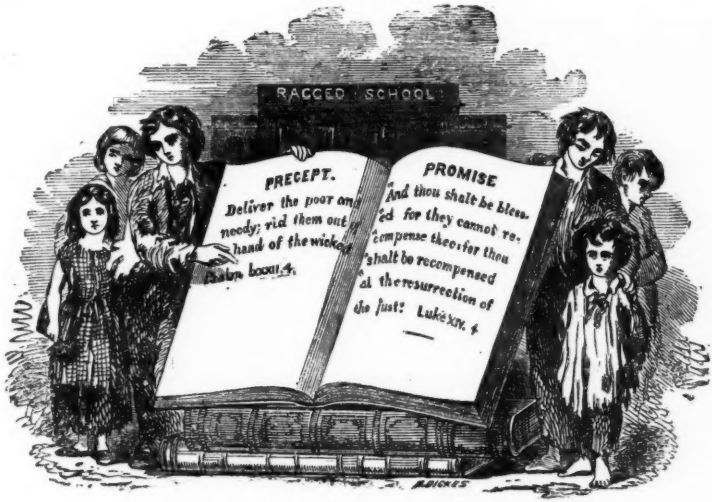

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

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* * * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of a chest of clothing from B. Hopkinson, Esq.; a bale of clothing, &c., from Mr. Ellis; a parcel of clothing from Mrs. Reade; a box of papers, tracts, &c., from the Misses Manning; a hamper of clothing and copies of "Sunday at Home," &c., from Mrs. McAll; and a box of boys' caps from an anonymous friend.

Parcels of Left-off Wearing Apparel, for distribution to the Children, and for our Industrial Classes, also Books or Magazines for forming School Libraries, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Parcels of waste paper, old magazines, reports, &c., &c., can be made good use of for the benefit of the Society, and will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, 1866.

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL

WORKING CLASSES' EXHIBITION,

AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

EXHIBITION OF RAGGED SCHOLARS' WORK.

In the coming autumn an Industrial Exhibition will be held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, for showing the Articles produced by the Working Classes of the Metropolis and Provinces, and also the Work of Children. The Committee of the Ragged School Union have applied for counter and wall space for showing Articles made by Scholars in Ragged Schools, which has been granted. The Schools in connection with the Parent Society are now invited to furnish as many well-made Articles as possible, with a view to form part of the Exhibition.

The Articles must be completed and delivered at their School on or before Saturday, August 25th.

A gathering of the Ragged Schools sending Articles will take place in the Exhibition in the early part of October, when the Children will occupy the Orchestra or Gallery, and suitable pieces will be sung, with organ accompaniments. On this occasion the Children will be admitted free; and, after the singing, will be conducted round the Exhibition, under the guidance of their Teachers.

Any further information may be obtained on application to the Superintendent or Teacher of their School.

All who intend to furnish Articles must give notice of it to the Superintendent at once.

All applications for Space must be made in writing without delay, to Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

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135, REGENT STREET, LONDON.

Ragged School Children's Excursion.

BLUEGATE FIELDS, SHADWELL, E.

It is proposed to give the *destitute* children belonging to these Schools their usual EXCURSION to GREENWICH PARK on WEDNESDAY, JULY 25th; but to accomplish this, the Teachers are compelled to cast themselves on the sympathy of a generous public, as they cannot bear the entire burden themselves. And being intensely anxious that these poor outcasts should not be disappointed, they earnestly hope that the benevolent will come forward to aid them in this charitable undertaking. In July last some 333 were taken by *special* Steam Boat from the Thames Tunnel Pier to Greenwich, and the day following about 120 of the "little ones" went in vans to Victoria Park, when *all* had a thorough day's enjoyment. Who will help to give these poor destitute ones a treat *this* year?

Contributions most thankfully received by

W. H. HATCHARD,
Hon. Sec.

No. 7, Albion Terrace, Commercial Road, E.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

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References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

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"I enclose a testimonial of no ordinary value, as it is the genuine expression of a grateful man's feelings."

To Singers and Public Speakers they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice. They have a pleasant taste.

Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box. Sold by all Medicine vendors.

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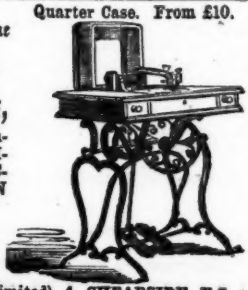


THE GIRLS' REFUGE

AND

KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOLS,

ALBERT STREET, SPITALFIELDS.

President:

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

Subscriptions and Donations are earnestly solicited on behalf of this Institution. The operations are very varied, and consist of—

REFUGE FOR GIRLS

wholly destitute, who are housed, clothed, fed, and trained to habits of industry.

RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Boys, Girls, and Infants; Morning, Afternoon, and Evening. Sunday as well as Day Schools.

RAGGED CHURCH.

Sunday and other services in King Edward Street.

Mothers' Meetings, Lectures, Penny Bank, &c.

In addition to the inmates belonging to the Refuge Department, the Committee have under their care upwards of 600 poor children, many of whom, but for this Institution, would be growing up in vagrancy and crime. There are Two Schools, the one in Albert Street for girls and infants, and the other in King Edward Street for boys.

Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received by the Hon. Secretary,

MR. H. R. WILLIAMS,

CROSBY HALL,

BISHOPSGATE STREET, E.C.

FRIENDLESS AND FALLEN.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

LONDON FEMALE PREVENTIVE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION

WILL BE HELD (D.V.) AT

LAWSON'S ROOMS, 145, GOWER STREET,

NEAR EUSTON ROAD,

ON THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1866.

THE CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN BY

JOHN HOWARD WILLIAMS, ESQ.,

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

HOMES *entirely supported by the Funds of this Institution*:—

200, Euston Road, N.W.
18, Cornwall Place, N.
5, Camden Street, N.W.
5, Parson's Green, Fulham.

Nearly two thousand poor young women have been admitted to the benefits of this Institution since September, 1857.

Contributions in aid of the *Annual Collection* will be thankfully received by

THOS. RAIKES, Esq., *Hon. Sec.*
E. W. THOMAS, *Sec.* } 200, Euston Road, N.W.

NICHOL STREET

Ragged Schools, Missions, and Working Men's Club,

BETHNAL GREEN.

These schools, established in 1843, are situated in one of the most destitute districts of London. Commencing with one room, the work steadily grew, until the one became sixteen; but then dilapidations became so serious, that in very self-defence they had to be given up. Freehold land close by, amply sufficient, was fortunately obtained by the Committee, at a cost of £850, and a portion of the land was covered with plain school buildings, which were opened free of debt. But from the dense population of the district, and the number of the children (about 1,200) crowding into the schools, still further accommodation is absolutely necessary.

But by these efforts, and by raising about £300 a year for the support of the School and Mission, the Committee and friends of the school, who mostly live three miles distant from the scene of their work, and have no special connection with the neighbourhood, have done what they can, and are now compelled to appeal to others for the assistance necessary to complete their plans by covering the vacant piece of land in their possession.

In this the Committee have the cordial approval and assistance of Lord Shaftesbury and the Rector of Bethnal Green.

Of the one thousand pounds asked for, half has been already obtained, but five hundred pounds are still required, and the Committee are very anxious to open the Schools free of debt, and thus claim the grant promised by the Ragged School Union.

Donations will be thankfully received by Mr. GENT, Secretary, Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall; or by

HENRY SPICER, Jun.,
68, Upper Thames Street, E.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

RAGGED SCHOOLS AS NURSERIES FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS.

WELL did the Apostle of the Gentiles, in his inimitable photograph of God's dealing with Israel, say that "God's ways are past finding out" by man. As is the case with his plans generally in the world of grace, so are they equally strange as respects each individual member of the great family of man. More particularly strange are the instruments which he selects, and the modes which he adopts, to anoint the men whom he hath chosen to work in his vineyard. Thus it is we find that the very last persons men would have thought of are the very ones chosen for his greatest works; and the ways in which they are *driven* into the work, shows that Moses was not the only one (Exod. iv. 1—17) who would have kept back from the path of labour assigned by God had he been permitted. As in his work, so in his instruments, Christ must be the Alpha and the Omega, the corner-stone, and the cementing top-stone: so that the work may be his from first to last.

Many illustrations are furnished by Holy Writ of most unlikely persons being chosen as prophets and ministers of the Most High. Hence, when he decided to deliver Israel from the yoke of Midian, he selected the farmer Gideon as captain of the Lord's hosts; and conquered the armies of Midian, not by the 10,000 able volunteers, but by 300 men, whose weapons were only pitchers and lamps. Thus, again, when Israel had degenerated, and were about to be exiled from the Land of Promise, God did not commission a member of the "school of the prophets" to pronounce the coming woe, but he anointed one of the herdsmen of Tekoa (Amos i. 1) to speak the doom of his guilty race. So, in after times, when the Gospel of the kingdom was to be preached, Christ went not to the Sanhedrim for missionaries, but called from their fishing-nets the sailors of Galilee. But in both cases, God, whilst he gave the commission, also conferred the fitting gifts; so that they went not

forth to the warfare at their own charges, but fully equipped by the Mighty One who gave the commission.

Nor are God's ways of chosing workmen for the spiritual work-field different in these days; but rather "the thing which has been, shall be," until the end of this dispensation. Thus, it was not men of high lineage or of giant intellect, like Clive or Warren Hastings, who were anointed to open the gates of India to the everlasting Gospel, but the task was delegated to that truer hero, the Northampton shoemaker, Carey. So, in these our days, in preaching to outcasts and wayfarers, a man, whose academy was that of a sweep, William Carter, and another, whose college was a colliery, Richard Weaver, were anointed for this special work: men who, speaking the vernacular of the classes they addressed, spoke at once to the heart. So has it ever been; for when God has a special work he ever summons the fitting man to perform it.

All such selections of preachers and pastors are based upon the Divine sovereignty: the right to use whom he will, where he will, in the way he pleases, and for what purpose he wills. It is also on the principle that "not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, call (or preach), but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." And wherefore this contrast with man's mode of selection? Surely in order that "no flesh should glory in his presence."

When the history of Ragged Schools comes to be written, we think, from facts which daily crop out, that this feature—namely, God working his strange way, and by still stranger agents—will be prominent in the record. We have, for example, but to glance at the doings of John Pounds, of Portsmouth, and James Beattie, of Gordonstone, two shoemakers of large brains and still larger hearts, to learn how God has selected poor men to train for heaven the still poorer. The one thus educated above five hundred destitute or depraved youth, both for time and for eternity; whilst the other, who still mends shoes while he is trying to mend hearts, has taught in his work-room above fourteen hundred scholars, some of whom are now ministers of the Gospel.

Nor is this huge London of ours without striking illustrations of the same fact, that God selects whom he pleases, how he pleases, and when he pleases, for his work. Thus, in the performance of our duties, as overseers of Ragged Schools, nothing has given us greater pleasure than to witness and aid the labour of two poor tinkers, one of whom started and taught a night-school in the very

heart of that sink of iniquity, Kent Street, Southwark, and the other of whom opened a school in Hatcham, a district which, prior to his labours, had neither church, chapel, nor school. So poor was our Kent Street friend, that not rarely he went without tea that he might be able to purchase rushlights to illumine his living-room, which was also his school-room, and he only closed it when he was too poor to purchase any candles. In both cases they had turned their parlours into school-rooms; sustained the expenses as they best could out of their scanty earnings; and taught the little they knew to those who knew still less. Yet out of the unobtrusive labour of these men—for they laboured long before any one knew of their doings, save their Master—has sprung two institutions, which educate about 400 children and 100 adults. But if two schools now stand out fully equipped for this great battle with social vice and misery, it is simply because two poor tinkers felt that the words, "Occupy till I come," were addressed to Christians of every station, be they noblemen or tinkers. Well, then, may we say as we scan their doings, "Give but the will, and fitting work will come."

And here we would gratefully point to another striking fruit of our movement—one which never entered into the conception of its founders, and to which public attention has not been directed—namely, the way in which Ragged Schools have become a stepping-stone to the ministry, and thus those who began by feeding God's lambs have ended by feeding his sheep. We have a list now before us of thirty-two persons who have already entered the ministry, and many more we know are now studying for that sacred work, who were formerly teachers in Ragged Schools. A moiety of these are Presbyters of the Established Church, and entered the ministry through the theological classes of King's College. Many of these have told us that they first became conscious of the gift which was in them through the power which attended their exhortations to the "roughs" who flock to our Sunday Night Schools. The number who have become city and town missionaries, or who have become powerful lay preachers, would largely add to the roll of our former teachers who are now enrolled as "able ministers of the New Covenant." Thus have they, whilst addressing the class or the collective school, furbished, so to speak, their weapons for their warfare with the sins of the adults of this great city, and learnt that the Gospel which reached the hearts of social Pariahs, can reach the conscience of every class, old or young.

Nor have the Ragged School classes been less re-productive; but rather, as in natural things, "like *has* produced like." Thus, at the present time, we are acquainted with no less than 188 voluntary teachers in London Ragged Schools, who once sat on the form as scholars. For power to cope with the difficult classes we strive by God's help to guide to Heaven, they have few equals, and certainly no superiors. How often have we, whilst visiting our Sunday Night Schools, been struck by the marked attention given to some teacher,—that bending forwards and inwards like some human bower, which indicates that spiritual interest has been aroused by the teacher. On asking, "Who is that?" the reply of the Superintendent has often been, "She was formerly the roughest of the rough in our school." Thus dragged out of the mire themselves, they know how to tell experimentally of the grace which is in Jesus; and thus they speak with a directness which those who were born in a higher social position rarely exhibit. To God—not to us—be the glory; for it was he alone who sought out and polished those precious jewels, and appointed them as light-bearers in this great Babel of ours.

Many similar facts might be reported, but sufficient has been stated to indicate that God has been true to his special promise to all true labourers for Christ: "The liberal soul *shall* be made fat: and he that watereth *shall* be watered also himself" (Prov. xi. 25). Nor can we doubt that if many more labourers, constrained solely by the love of Christ, enter this vineyard, that they will never find cause to regret that they there consecrated their influence and their talents to this holiest of works. Refrain, we may, from God's work, or, like Jonah, try to escape the commission given us, "Occupy till I come;" but assuredly by thus "withholding more than is meet," it will tend to spiritual poverty; and thus the idle will find as a just penalty of disobedience, that his soul is starved. While on the other hand, possibly, he who began in a class may find it a real college, where he will practically learn the use of his spiritual weapons in a still wider, but assuredly not more important sphere. Thus, like David, who essayed his juvenile prowess in the fight with a lion and a bear, but who ended by commanding the armies of the living God, so may it be found in other cases, that he who, by God's grace, learnt how to govern the young Arabs of London, may discover in that fact his call to that higher ministry, wherein the masses are exhorted to give their hearts to Jesus in the great congregation.

Nor should the facts now recorded, excite any surprise. For whether we speak to a class, or address a large congregation—whether we talk to the lambs of the flock, or to adults grown grey in sin—still to both classes we preach the same glorious doctrine, that, though dead in Adam, men can be made alive in Christ. Surely this ought to make every Christian say with Elihu, (Job xxxii. 18—20,) "I am full of matter; the Spirit within me constraineth me; I will speak that I may be refreshed." Thus, every earnest Ragged School teacher becomes a true Evangelist, and helps Jesus to fill Heaven. For in this sphere of Christian labour at least, the sower and the reaper have ever been one!

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

Held in Exeter Hall, on Monday Evening, May 7th, 1866.

RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., IN THE CHAIR.

(*Continued from p.* 144.)

Rev. B. COMPTON, Rector of St. Paul's, Covent Garden:—In seconding this Resolution I have great pleasure in putting before you the prominent claims of the work of Ragged Schools, but there is one point to which I would wish to draw your attention in particular. In the first place, to the enormous amount of work that has been done. I find by this Report that you have at present in your schools 30,000 children, but that these figures do not measure the work that has been done in these schools, for I find that the passage of the children through these schools is so rapid that in some schools the scholars change no less than four times in the year, and therefore in a school of 250 scholars no less than 1,000 have passed through it in the course of a year. But gratifying as is the amount of work that is done, let us think for a moment of what remains to be done; and putting a charitable interpretation on each revelation that has been made, I think it may be made to serve our purpose that we are attempting to overtake the progress of crime. It reminds me that in spite of all our railroads communicating from one part to another of this great city, in spite of all the steamers, the traffic in our great thoroughfares is not only undiminished, but is increasing, and unless we exert ourselves more than we have hitherto, the amount of crime must necessarily increase too. There is then a great work doing, and a great work done. But I think no one looking upon the poor children can help asking themselves one question, and that question is, What becomes of those children after they leave school? We know that a great many of them leave at a very early age, and I find in this Report very satisfactory facts which tell us what becomes of these children,—that 6,000 of them in the course of a year may obtain respectable employment. But what is 6,000 of the vast amount which yearly is in these schools? Our Ragged School Union does not content itself with teaching children in the schools; instruction is the first thing, but the Ragged School Union does not content itself with

mere instruction, it goes on to supplement these efforts by other instruction in gaining a livelihood. It has its Class and its Union for these scholars, and its Shoeblack Society, and other means of preparing boys for employment. And now, having noticed these Shoe-black Societies, I want to put before you the chief point upon which I wished to speak. We have heard a great deal about the ragged boys, but little about the girls. These Shoeblack Societies have been in operation now fifteen years, and we read that they have earned £55,000. Now, cannot we do something more for the girls than is being done when they leave the Ragged Schools? I believe much more may be done, and I would place the question before you, as a *woman's* question more than a man's, we ought certainly to endeavour to do something for these poor children who leave the schools and who have great difficulty in obtaining employment. We know perfectly well, and every lady will bear me out, that there is at present a very great dearth of female servants. I think all of you find this difficulty in finding servants. Poor people actually make no inquiry about character, so glad are they to get the help they want. The elder girls of Ragged Schools should be prepared to supply this want of servants. The demand is ready, the supply would then be ready, and our duty is to make one fit into the other. For this further efforts seem needful, for no one can take a servant who has not had some little experience in household work, and schools can scarcely furnish it. And now let me tell you there is an Association being formed to meet this necessity. It will be called the "*Girls' Housework Society.*" The object of it is to help girls to obtain honest, respectable employment, and train them to be good, useful domestic servants. And we propose to do this by employing, in the first place, girls with pails to go out and obtain employment for the day, and for this kind of domestic service there is an enormous demand by small tradesmen. We propose as often as we can to gather together girls of about thirteen years, to give them clothes and to send them out in the morning much in the same way that the Shoeblacks are sent out to carry on their business. I believe there is no possible doubt that ample employment will be found for them, and there certainly is no doubt of an ample supply of girls willing to enter upon this employment. And we propose to work this somewhat in the way that the Ragged Schools are worked, namely, by having a central body, corresponding to the Ragged School Union, and local committees, each committee to act, independently, and, if necessary, to receive help from the parent society. The effort has in some places already commenced, and we hope soon to have applications from other parts of London, and shall only be too glad to receive other offers and ideas. There is no doubt of obtaining the money that is wanted; money has already been offered to us abundantly, but what we want more than money, which the Ragged Schools want, what we want even more than money, is actual business like co-operation. We should only be too glad to see local committees formed of persons who can give their whole heart to it, and we shall only be too happy to assist and to obtain the funds which are necessary for carrying on their operations. Certainly there is ample scope for this and many other similar undertakings. In all these undertakings there must always be persons to take an interest in them; the more there are of them and the more different the quarters from which an assault can be made upon this mass of misery, the more hope we have of obtaining success upon all sides. (Applause.) I address ladies in particular, and hope they will remember the misery of the bondage of some of these poor girls. Any endeavours which can be made on their behalf by Christian men or women, must be indeed well spent, and cannot fail to please Him whom above all we desire to serve.

A. HALDANE, Esq.:—The Resolution I have to move requires no speech, but it

is a Resolution without which the proceedings of this meeting would be incomplete. The resolution is, "That the special thanks of this meeting be presented to Lord Shaftesbury for his long-continued services in the cause of the poor in general, and of Ragged Schools in particular, and for presiding on the present occasion."

JAMES LAWRIE, Esq., seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The EARL OF SHAFTESBURY replied by saying – Are you aware that this is the twenty-second time that you have had me in the chair. (Cheers.) If you have forgotten it I have not. Twenty-two times in succession is rather a proof that I have been a very good boy. (Renewed cheers.) Only one observation. If an American gentleman remarks upon the absence of our friend Payne, how much more must that absence be felt by myself and by all of you? But our friend has thought it necessary to take a little rest from arduous labours. He has laboured in court, he has laboured in school, he has laboured on the platform, he has laboured in various ways, he wants repose of body and refreshment of mind, and he has retired from London, I hope, for a very short time. Allow me, as he is not present, to bear testimony to his unequalled merit in the cause of the Ragged School; from the very beginning to the present time his zeal has been undying, and I believe to no living man is the Ragged School movement so much indebted as to Counsellor Payne. (Loud applause.) You know his inimitable power of telling a story, you know his appropriate poetry, you know the warmth and depth of his heart and the true Christian piety with which he is animated, therefore let me convey to him from you an expression of sympathy, and an expression that you will pray from the very bottom of your heart that he may soon return to his work, young and lusty as an eagle. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

When the excitement abated the benediction was pronounced and the meeting dispersed.

ERNEST GRAHAM: A DOCTOR'S STORY.

SUCH is the title of a very interesting and a very instructive book just published by Tweedie, 337, Strand, (crown 8vo., 354 pp., for 5s.) The work is divided into twenty-one chapters, detailing the experiences of a Medical Student in the Wards, Dissecting and Operating Theatres, &c., shows the pleasures and peculiar temptations of student life, and it carries the reader through some curious scenes illustrating the condition of our London poor. The author has kindly given us permission to make extracts from it, of which we gladly avail ourselves, as we believe that by so doing our readers will be induced to obtain the work, and give it a careful reading. The following is a part of the sixth chapter, and furnishes the Doctor's "Glimpse of London as it really is.

The evening saw Ernest making a fourth at Orange House—for so Mr. Travers' residence was named. Dinner was over, and the diners had gathered round the drawing-room fire. Ernest was talking cheerfully and seemed in good spirits, though he looked pale and worn; he was speaking of how rapidly Crofton and other similar places had been built over. Edith remarked how convenient they were for men of business, who could thus avoid living in London, and yet be there during working hours.

"Then I presume, Miss Travers, that you would not like to live in town?' said Ernest.

"Oh no! I should not indeed. I detest London with all my heart."

"Do you know much of it that you dislike it so?"

"I know it pretty well; I could find my way in any of the principal thoroughfares if I were left alone. Of course I do not know the back streets, nobody does."

"Your remark," said Ernest, "exactly illustrates the sort of knowledge that most people have of our capital; all know the surface, but few penetrate it. You have really seen next to nothing of London, and yet you do not like it; how you would loathe it if you knew it fully! And yet," he added, looking into Edith's face and seeing her bright eyes full of interest fixed upon him, "I think perhaps that I am wrong; if you did know the dark story that I could tell you, you would not, I fancy, loathe, but love the city. Its sorrows would draw forth your sympathy, and your heart would yearn to soothe its sufferings. Richard, if you will allow me, I will tell your niece the history of a poor boy who ran away from home and came to London for the first time. His name was John Martin; his father, by trade a blacksmith, was a drunkard; he had lost his mother, and his sister being out at service, he was the only one at home. He was a well-disposed boy, willing to work, and had been soundly taught at the village school; his duties were to help at the forge. He worked hard, but was most cruelly treated; his father came home tipsy every night, and no matter how late, he obliged his son to sit up for him; and often, on his return, beat the poor boy with anything that he could lay his hands upon, such as the back of a chair, a broom-handle, and even the poker. John Martin bore this usage patiently for a long time, but at last determined to run away. He left all his clothes except the suit he had on, thinking it not honest to take what his father had bought. Of money he had one-and-sixpence, and with this in his pocket he set out early one morning to walk to London—a distance of over two hundred miles. During the journey he lived upon scraps given him by the farmers' wives, and expended a shilling of his capital upon bread; he slept in barns and out-houses, and arrived in town with very little shoe-leather, and his remaining sixpence. Entering the city in the middle of the day he walked about until night; forgetful of fatigue, hunger, and his miserable situation, and lost in the contemplation of the wonders that surrounded him on every side. Exhausted at last, he sat down upon a door-step and fell asleep; he was soon roused by a rough shake and a voice telling him to move on. He looked up, and, seeing a policeman, asked with simplicity where he might sleep.

"'Nowhere out of doors,' replied the policeman; 'haven't you got any money?'

"Martin answered that he had got sixpence.

"'You know very well that you can get a bed in a lodging-house for threepence, you young scamp,' said the officer as he moved away.

"Martin walked on, thinking that he would find a lodging-house and get a night's rest. He asked at several public-houses if they would give him a bed for threepence, but he only got laughed at: then he tried a cheap coffee-house on which was inscribed 'Good Beds,' and the proprietor boxed

his ears for daring, as he said, to chaff. In his despair he decided to make for the country again, where he could at least find a hedge-bank or hay-stack for a resting-place; but he was dying with hunger, he must have something to eat first; so, seeing a shop opposite with puddings smoking in the window, he entered and purchased a penny slice, and perceiving a ragged boy eating a similar morsel, he went up to him and said, 'I will give you a penny if you will show me where I can get a bed. I have been told that I can get one for threepence, and I cannot afford more.'

"The boy grinned, pocketed the penny, and led the way out of the shop. As they were walking, he asked Martin a good many questions about himself, what money he had got, &c., and thought, as he told him, he was the greenest chap he had ever clapped eyes on. After passing through several narrow, dirty streets, he stopped before a large tumble-down building, and saying, 'You'll get as good a snooze here as anywheres,' walked quickly away.

"Left to himself, Martin entered the house, paid his money, and was shown into a large room in which he counted twenty beds, the greater number of them already occupied. Some of the lodgers were asleep, others were talking, laughing, and singing songs; whilst a few, gathered near the single tallow candle, were playing cards and dominoes. The sheets of the bed assigned to the new-comer were nearly black with use, and the blanket and rug allowed as coverings he could hardly bear to touch. The bed next to him on one side contained a husband, wife, and two children, and on the other side was a group of young thieves sitting on the floor, and talking of what they had stolen during the day; the foulest language came from their young lips, and blasphemies were uttered on every side. In this den of vice our poor boy slept. With the light of day he left the place, and, wandering about until the bakers' shops opened, entered one to buy a roll. On putting his hand into his pocket to pay he found that he had been robbed of the only penny he possessed; and the shopman, thinking that he had come to steal, gave him a cruel kick as he turned away. The boy's spirit was well-nigh broken; he walked on a little distance, sat down and began to cry. All that day he wandered about starving; at night he slept in Covent Garden Market on the hard stones, and the next morning found some rotten fruit that had been thrown away, and ate it ravenously. Then he thought that he would try begging, though he had hitherto been prevented from this step by shame. He stationed himself at the corner of a street, and narrowly scanned the faces of the passers-by, wondering who appeared the most likely to have pity on him. He fixed upon a benevolent-looking old lady bustling along with a bag on her arm, and with a beating heart stepped forward touched her upon the shoulder, and asked if she would give him a penny. Whether the good lady would have given him anything it is impossible to say, for he had hardly made his supplication before his coat-collar was rudely seized from behind, and he found himself in the hands of a policeman. The man twisted him round, stared him hard in the face, and said, 'Lucky for you, young chap, that I don't know you, or I'd have locked you up. I believe you're a new hand; but don't go trying the game again, or you'll get quodded.'

"Martin begged no more; the day passed, he knew not how; he had

become sick and drowsy from want of food. In the evening he saw a number of ragged poor assembled before the door of a large building, and asking one of them why they were there, he was told, for the sake of getting a night's rest in the casual ward of the workhouse. Hearing this he waited, and when the door was opened passed in with the rest. He was shown into the men's ward, where inclined boards strewn with straw and a couple of thick rugs were to serve him as bed. It was a vile hole, and the smell and closeness, owing to bad ventilation and the dirty habits of the lodgers, were scarcely bearable. Bread and gruel were given him; and, having devoured it, he slept soundly in spite of all disagreeables, and woke in the morning with new life. The same allowance of food was given to him as when he entered, and he went away feeling that he had been saved from death. Walking along he came upon a lad of his own age sitting on a door-step with a large basket upon his knees containing one or two bunches of water-cresses. Martin had steadily resisted the overtures of the young thieves and vagrants whom he met, feeling, even in the height of starvation, that he would sooner die than live by stealing, but he thought that this boy, though miserably dressed, had an honest look about him, and moreover seemed to follow an honest trade; he therefore went up to him, and, sitting down by his side, asked him if he kept himself by selling cresses. On being answered in the affirmative, he next inquired if it were possible that he himself could do so. The boy asked if he had any money, and Martin, shaking his head, he suggested that perhaps he had something to sell; receiving a negative to this also, he ran his eye quickly over our hero's clothes. A working suit, torn and threadbare, to an ordinary observer did not give much hope of turning money, but the boy seemed to think differently. 'You've got a shirt!' he exclaimed, 'why don't you sell that? you'd get threepence or fourpence for it at a dolly shop. If you wait here whilst I run home and leave my basket, as I've done my rounds, I'll come with you.' Martin joyfully promised to be at his post, and after his new acquaintance had left forgot his past miseries in the joyful anticipation of converting his shirt into water-cresses, selling them at a large profit, and becoming a prosperous itinerant tradesman, instead of a hungry, vagabond boy. His friend was soon back, and they went together to the dolly shop (a sort of old clothes shop or illicit pawnbroker's), and there Martin divested himself of his linen, and received fourpence for it. He parted with his friend soon after, agreeing to meet him early the next morning in Farringdon Market. He would have liked to return again to the casual ward, but as its inmates were not let out in the morning until eight o'clock, if he went there he would not have been able to keep his engagement; so he spent a penny out of his fourpence for a loaf at supper-time, and passed the night under a railway arch undisturbed by the police. Punctually at the appointed time he was at the market, where he met the kindhearted cress-boy, who presented him with an old tray for the accommodation of his wares. He purchased a good stock of water-cresses for his threepence, pumped on them to freshen them up, and tied them in bundles at four a penny; then he set off to try and sell them. That day he made ninepence; with this he bought for breakfast at a stall a half mug of coffee for a halfpenny, and a slice of bread-and-butter for the same sum. For dinner he laid out a halfpenny in a huge baked potato, and

a penny in a saveloy. His young friend showed him a more respectable lodging-house than the one in which he had last slept; and there he paid threepence, and for a halfpenny purchased of his landlady a piece of a loaf, leaving threepence to invest in the next day's stock. So he lived on from day to day, sometimes making as much as a shilling, and at others not more than fourpence, until a coachman, to whom he had sold regularly, asked him some questions about himself, and heard the whole of his sad story. Touched by the lad's hardships and manful struggles, he gave him half-a-crown. Martin then gave up water-cresses, and embarked in oranges; he bought fifty for one and sixpence, and hired a basket for a penny a day. In this trade I found him earning from six to seven shillings a week, and contented, happy, and grateful to God.

"This is my story, Miss Travers; it is dull and unromantic, but it is true. I have told it in order to give you a glimpse of the inner life of our London poor. Martin is the type of thousands who come to London from the country, and manfully struggle to live; some die in the battle, many fight it out, and more, perhaps, pressed by hunger, yield themselves to the devil, and become thieves. Numbers of our poor know no other home than lodging-houses, such as the one I have described, and many are obliged to spend their nights in the streets. Do you like London now?"

Edith murmured something unintelligibly, and Ernest saw that her eyes were filled with tears.

"I should not have thought it possible to live upon so little as this boy did," said Willie.

"I have known many to live on much less; compared with numbers of others, my hero was wealthy."

"It is startling to consider what we call necessaries, after hearing how little is required to support life," observed Mr. Travers.

"It is, indeed," answered Ernest. "I sometimes hate myself as I sit down to a good dinner such as we have just eaten, and think how many the price of it would feed, if laid out in bread. But my feelings are getting the better of my politeness," he added smiling; "I must not talk in this way."

"You do a great deal amongst the poor, Mr. Graham; so my uncle tells me," said Edith.

"I do what I can, and that is very little," answered Ernest, humbly. "You would do the same, if you knew what I know."

"I!" exclaimed Edith; "what could I do? I am only a girl."

"I know a young lady in London, who, when about your age, began the work of the Lord. Ten years have passed since she commenced her labours, and during that time she has persuaded nearly two hundred children to attend school; she has reclaimed nine drunkards, and fifteen unfortunate girls; how many ragged little outcasts through her teaching are now holding good situations as Christians and useful members of society, I am afraid to say."

Edith gazed at Ernest in amazement.

"And all this was done by a weak woman!" she exclaimed; "it seems incredible."

"It does," replied Ernest. "The prayer in the general thanksgiving, that we may give ourselves to God's service, must have been answered to the

letter in her case, or she could not have effected the wonders that she did. This young lady's case," he added emphatically, "should be a great encouragement to us all."

Edith did not answer, but seemed lost in thought.

"Drunkenness," said Mr. Travers, "is the cause of nearly all the misery in London. Sixty thousand of our countrymen in Great Britain die annually from drink; and yet, when I see the poor wretches of our streets flocking to the public-houses, I have no heart to blame them. They are without a hope in life, without a hope hereafter; their only pleasure lies in forgetfulness that they exist. Drink brings them a negative delight, such as a dog seems to find in sleep; it relieves them for the moment of the burden of living. Suppose that one of these poor creatures finds himself at the close of the day with more money than his stomach actually craves for food, he will enjoy himself, he thinks, and goes to a public-house and calls for gin. When he has muddled his head so that he forgets the past and has no thought for the morrow, he is—as far as he can be or ever has been—happy. If we wanted amusement after a hard day's work, we should perhaps take a walk, or read an entertaining book, play a game at chess, or call upon some friend; but if our nature were so degraded as to be wholly animal, if we were homeless, friendless, and without God in the world, I question if we should not drink."

"The condition of the poor must certainly be raised before we can hope to stop this vice," said Ernest; "and it is chiefly to be done by education. Ragged Schools are the grand preventive of crime and misery; I wish we had more pupils and more teachers. The latter, however, is our great want at present; and it seems wonderful that, whilst so many good Christians live in London, so few should be found to volunteer their services."

"This, no doubt, is in great part owing to the fact that the wealthier classes have of late years migrated in such numbers from the city to the suburbs and adjacent country," observed Mr. Travers.

"That is true," replied Ernest; "yet even these might assist, if they were able and willing to come up daily or even weekly for the purpose. It is easy to do this for business, why not for God? But there are multitudes of good men and women who live in the very centre of want and crime, and yet make no personal effort for their prevention. The fact is that most Christians will give their money, but very few will give their time; and there is little doubt in my mind which of the two is the more acceptable to God. A pecuniary gift is seldom an act of self-denial. If you, Richard, give me a sovereign for a family in distress, you sleep in as soft a bed, eat as good a breakfast, and have the same gratifications as if you had your pound in your pocket. But if, instead of giving me anything, you set to work to find employment for the husband, washing or needlework for the wife, and get the children sent to school, you sacrifice your bodily comfort, ease of mind, and perhaps hours which would have been engaged in some profitable worldly concern. I take this, my friend, to be true charity."

Ernest did not mean this supposititious case to be a rebuke to Mr. Travers; he knew that the latter, after his own fashion, spent much of his time in doing good to the poor.

"I quite agree with you," said Mr. Travers; "and I think that a man

who has saved one soul by his own exertions, will receive a greater reward than one who in giving a fortune saves a hundred through the medium of others."

FIELD LANE REFUGE AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

(*From the Times.*)

ANOTHER important addition was made to the voluntarily-supported charities which already muster so thickly in London. The new and spacious buildings erected by the Field Lane Refuge on the waste ground to the left of Farringdon Road were formally opened and inaugurated by the holding of the twenty-fourth annual meeting, on June 6th, of its friends, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. Our readers will probably not have forgotten that in the winter of 1858 the attention of the benevolent was strongly directed towards the usefulness and indigence of this charity in a series of articles which appeared in the *Times* under the title of "Our Homeless Poor." The result which followed this appeal was almost unprecedented. Within two or three months after our appeal upwards of £12,000 was forwarded to this Refuge; and other similar institutions throughout the metropolis also benefited largely from the stream of public aid which was turned in their direction. To the Field Lane Refuge, however, the assistance was all-important. It was almost insolvent when we made our appeal, and in a few weeks after it was established on a solid basis, and since then has flourished, and largely extended its operations. The interest of the amount collected, which was invested under the name of "The *Times* Fund," enabled its managers in the following year to give up the foul, ill-ventilated, and rickety stables in which they had hitherto been obliged to lodge the destitute, and to rent buildings which gave them clean and spacious accommodation for the crowds of houseless poor who nightly flocked to them. In these premises they would probably have remained till now, but that the insatiable requirements of the modern railway system dispossessed them nearly two years ago. The compensation which the institution then received, and the large sum still invested in "The *Times* Fund," were sufficient, however, to give more confidence to its charitable supporters to purchase a freehold site for themselves, and erect, for the first time in London, a properly designed and suitable Refuge for the homeless, and Ragged Schools for the poor half-abandoned children that crowd the alleys day and night in the neighbourhood of Saffron Hill. The foundation-stone of this plain but large and lofty structure was laid just a year ago by Lord Shaftesbury, and yesterday evening it was opened. The opening, of course, was only formal, and for the purpose, as we have said, of holding the annual meeting, for no refuges receive the destitute during the summer months, and, in fact, neither these institutions nor the casual wards are ever troubled at such a time with any applicants.* The new building is plain almost to roughness. It is a strong, warm, fire-proof structure, with lofty rooms, plenty of light and air,

* This is not correct, as the Field Lane Refuge opens its doors for the homeless poor every night in the year.

but beyond this as unadorned and as cheap as it was possible to make it, consistent with its great strength and well-built roofing. It is erected in four stories, exclusive of the basement or underground portion. One side is devoted entirely to the Refuges for women, and the other for men and boys. The matron's and master's rooms are on the upper stories, with rooms for teaching sewing, clothes-mending, &c., and also for instruction in reading and writing, if any of its unfortunate inmates choose to avail themselves of them. In the basement floor are the baths, kitchens, and lavatories, while the whole of the topmost floor of all is exclusively used for a very large and very lofty Ragged School, in which also the Ragged Church services are held three times a day on Sundays. This room is spacious enough to accommodate a congregation of nearly 1,200 people, and during the two or three past Sundays in which it has been so used it has always been crowded. At the upper end, over a temporary reading-desk, a handsome carved mural tablet of white marble is fixed on the wall. On this is engraved a long and gratefully worded inscription, to the effect that the tablet has been placed there to bear enduring testimony to the value of the letters on the subject of "Our Homeless Poor," and which, appearing in the *Times*, resulted in such munificent subscriptions by the public as enabled them to build the present Refuge for the homeless and destitute. Every part of the building was crowded yesterday by visitors, and the arrangements made in the wards for the reception of the destitute were deservedly much commended. Each of these large apartments is capable of accommodating seventy persons, and the strips of rug on which they sleep for the night are raised by stretchers from the floor after the improved plan first, we believe, introduced in the Newport Market Refuge. Lord Shaftesbury, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. Hanbury, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, Assistant-Judge Payne, Mr. Tawell, Captain Macgregor, and a number of other friends of the charity, took part in the proceedings of the annual meeting. The annual report, after fervently expressing the gratitude of the Committee to the *Times* newspaper, went on to congratulate the meeting on the gratifying progress of all branches of the Institution. The Infant Schools, Ragged Schools, the Industrial Classes for both men and women, were all flourishing both as regarded the increasing number and increasing regularity of their attendance. A Penny Bank for the poor of the neighbourhood had nearly 750 depositors. The Homeless Poor Act of last Session had, to a certain extent, relieved the pressure on both the men's and women's Refuges, still there was scarcely a night during the past winter during which they had not been full. In all 21,300 had been lodged, and nearly 50,000 loaves of bread distributed. Of the number who came to the Refuge last winter upwards of 500 had been provided with permanent situations. The Servants' Home was working admirably, and the Ragged Church services were, in the language of the poor people around them, "a comfort of their neighbourhood." In spite of all the personal efforts of the Committee, and the liberal financial aid they had received through the advocacy of the *Times*, the new building was still nearly £3,000 in debt, and they earnestly hoped that it would not be long before they would be able to report that the help of the benevolent had enabled them to liquidate that also, and left them to start on their good work free from debt. The report was unanimously received and adopted, and the Rev.

Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Hanbury, and the noble Chairman having addressed the meeting, a liberal subscription was made in aid of the funds of the charity; and the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to Lord Shaftesbury.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB, WESTMINSTER.

OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING.

For some months past a noble pile of buildings has been in course of erection in Old Pye Street, the progress of which has been watched with special interest by the inhabitants of that and the surrounding districts; part of it was intended to afford accommodation for the Duck Lane Club, those premises having been required for the improvements, the remainder being a comfortable dwelling-house, for those who by their occupations or the lowness of their wages are excluded from all the model lodging-houses, Mr. Peabody's included, where only men earning weekly wages of 18s. or 20s. are admitted. At the opening of the club and lecture-rooms Mr. Edward Stephens, the Secretary, read the following interesting statement:—

"The fifth anniversary of the Westminster Working Men's Club having been so recently held (in December last), it is not intended to present anything like a report to this meeting, or to take up much of that time which should be occupied by the valued friends upon the platform; yet it would show a want of gratitude on the part of the Committee and members of this institution, did we not cast an affectionate and retrospective glance upon the old building in Duck Lane, which we have vacated to-day, for the purpose of recording our thankfulness to the All-wise and Almighty Giver of every good and perfect gift, for having so mercifully led us on from one effort to another, crowning them with success, and enabling us to work together in comfort and harmony for our mutual and individual good. There was started the Penny Bank, which was like a Bank of Deposit for those members who had no strong box at home, and whose drafts upon it were always met. There was formed the Labour Loan Society, which, during four years and a half, has lent in small sums to members nearly £900—honourably repaid—enabling them to borrow from their own stock, and thus preserve that feeling of independence and self-respect so dear to every working man. The Barrow Club, also, during the past three years, has enabled twenty-one members to become proprietors of their own barrows, instead of hiring them all their lives. There the Temperance Society sprang into existence, originating in the moral courage of *one member*, who being desirous to escape from the strong temptations by which he was surrounded, enrolled his name first in the pledge-book, followed by nineteen others; and it is gratifying to know that, by Divine grace, he and several of that first number have honourably kept their promise, and are able to-night to give pleasing testimony as to the wisdom of their resolution; while many others have joined the Society with the desire to carry out in some small degree the great Apostle's Christian maxim, "It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." The various lectures (seventy-eight in number) which have been gratuitously delivered by kind friends, and generally profusely illustrated by diagrams, chemical experiments, models or dissolving views, have brought forward a great variety of important subjects in a familiar shape, developing the mind, enlarging the understanding, and leading to

profitable and interesting private discussions. The educational classes have met the requirements of those members who desired to improve themselves, and these have been supplemented by the library, the newspapers, and magazines. The Bible Class and Sunday Evening Services have been well attended, and a little band have met at the Wednesday noon Prayer-meeting to ask God's blessing on the institution and the district. The result of these spiritual efforts is known to Him who searches the heart, and we rely on his gracious promise that his word shall not return to him void, but shall accomplish that whereunto it was sent. All these operations it is hoped will continue to prosper in their new home, into which they are introduced from to-night; for, although entered upon *new premises*, it is the *old club* under the *same* management, and the *same* regulations. A few words must be given to a new Society which it is hoped will soon be fully developed—the Co-operative Association—the store being situated at the corner, which it is proposed to open early next month. It will be managed by the members of the club who are holders of shares, which are 5s. each; it is proposed to sell good articles, give just weight, at moderate prices, and for ready money only, giving a bonus to all customers. Of our new building in which we are assembled to-night we need say nothing; but we hope that the adjoining dwelling-house will be ready for occupation in a few weeks. It contains 60 tenements; the rents will be about, for two rooms 3s., for three rooms 4s. 3d., for a single room 1s. 9d., or a little more according to size; the rooms are 8ft. 6in. in height, a fire-place in every room, water, &c., on every landing, and the dust is conveyed by shafts to the basement. The wash-house is on the top to prevent any unpleasant effects from the steam; the ventilation and drainage have been thoroughly attended to, and it is hoped that it will be a great comfort to the occupants. The works reflect great credit on the architect, H. M. Eyben, Esq., and Mr. Brass, the contractor, of Chelsea. The cost of the ground, which is freehold, and the entire building, will be nearly £9,000; of this, part is met by the compensation money for the lease, and old club-house, the remainder, £7,600, is lent on mortgage at 3 per cent. by our kind friend the Marquis of Westminster, who has taken so generous an interest in our progress. The rents have been made as low as possible, and it is only by the regular payment of those rents that all the incidental expenses and the interest can be met, and for which Miss Adeline Cooper and her co-trustees have made themselves responsible. It is generally known that the club, which is entirely distinct from the dwelling-house, is not self-supporting; the expenses last year were £95 6s. 3¾d., there being a deficit at the closing of accounts of over £5; on hearing this, our esteemed friend, Sir R. W. Carden, at once sent a cheque and relieved us from our difficulty. To all their kind friends and helpers the Committee and members offer their sincere thanks, and would conclude in the words of the man of God, 'Let thy work, O God, appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.'"

THE NICHOL STREET SCHOOLS, BETHNAL GREEN.

THE new buildings for these schools are now completed by the erection of the general school-room. They consist of a large place of worship, general school-room, infant school-room, juvenile class-rooms, and a large house. The buildings being completed, were opened by a meeting held on Wednesday, June 20th, when Lord Shaftesbury presided, and the following particulars were laid before the meeting by the Secretary, Mr. Lloyd:—

We meet to-day, under the most encouraging circumstances, to celebrate the consummation of many years' work and waiting, in the completion of our buildings, which, from their character and promised permanency, bid fair to be a great help to this neighbourhood for many a year to come.

Those who commenced this work in a little room at the rental of a weekly shilling could hardly have ventured to have looked forward to a time when it would comprehend premises of so complete and commanding a character as the present,—freehold premises, moreover, of the value of some £4,000, which we may safely assert are not excelled in their space, adaptation, and comfort, by any similar institution in the metropolis.

Six years ago the ground was purchased, and erections have been made from time to time since as funds have been entrusted to us, so as to avoid as far as possible any great accumulation of debt; indeed, the erection of the present building was not undertaken until the sum of £700 was collected or promised, a sum which your Committee thought would justify them in proceeding with the work; so that the whole of these substantial buildings, and the ground on which they stand, are, with the exception of about £400, *paid for*, and put in trust, for the purposes for which they are erected, for ever.

In 1861, when the room in which we now meet was opened by Lord Shaftesbury, your Committee ventured to suggest what their future plans were, and stated that some £2,500 would yet be required to carry them out. In 1866 the suggested plan is a reality, the aim all but accomplished, the land purchased, the buildings erected, and the whole wanting but a small sum to open clear of debt.

In looking backward from this most encouraging position, the Committee feel that their humble gratitude should be publicly expressed to the Almighty Disposer of all hearts, in thus richly blessing their labours, in originating the plan, fostering the progress, and crowning the consummation of the whole with such abundant success; to his holy and reverend name be all the praise; and to his servants, who from all quarters and of all ranks have in various ways helped forward this great result; may the walls thus erected be long consecrated to his service, in instructing the ignorant, restraining the vicious, succouring the distressed, and making known the glad tidings of salvation by "Jesus Christ" to many a weary, broken-hearted sinner.

The area of this parish, viz., Bethnal Green, is about 760 acres; its population about 120,000, giving about 158 persons to an acre! The street in which this school stands, viz., Old Nichol Street, with the adjoining streets, viz., New Nichol Street and Half Nichol Street, and their courts and alleys, some 300 houses, have a population of some 7,000 souls, the adjoining streets being equally over-crowded. For this district this unsectarian Mission literally provides the *only* schools for the children, or place of worship for the adults, who consist principally of the poorest of the labouring classes, viz., the costermonger and dock-labourer, with a large admixture of the vicious and the profligate.

When our work was commenced here the residents were of a very different class—principally weavers—and the sharp click of the busy shuttle might be heard in almost every house, and in many houses, indeed, in every room: now, from the limited demand for Spitalfields manufactures, many of the weavers have had for many weary years past to eke out a miserable livelihood by such casual employment that they could obtain from the docks or elsewhere. But this labour is very occasional, and to earn more than ten shillings a week on the average is rare, for during a portion of every year no work is to be had from this source. In winter, when the docks are frozen over, or when, by the keen east winds of early spring the homeward-bound vessels are kept in the Channel, he and his thinly-clad children suffer keenly, for then

no tongue can tell the miseries of the Bethnal Green poor. In other parts of the metropolis, the poor are "get-at-able." Here the sufferers are lost in the mass of surrounding poverty, and we bid God's speed to our kind-hearted rector's scheme of dividing the whole parish into small districts, giving each district to the special charge of two or more persons, who are to be responsible for, and inquire carefully into—all cases requiring relief—not in the sense of pauperising the recipient, but of brotherly help in time of distress and anxiety. By such means the feeble and deserving sufferer will be found out and the clamorous and importunate impostor detected. The physical condition of the inhabitants of Bethnal Green is undoubtedly below the normal standard, and no visitor from other localities can fail being struck with the number of pale and wasted children, dirty women, and of weak and puny men, who hang about the streets, not having sufficient energy to strike out for themselves. It was stated in an interesting article that appeared in the *Evening Standard* on the pauperism of Bethnal Green, that at least 50,000 of its inhabitants are dependent upon a weekly income which does not exceed fourpence a head. Of course this includes all the younger members of the community, and even this seems incredible; we believe three times that amount would be much nearer the mark, and that sum would represent a state of things almost beyond belief.

If the condition of the parents is as has been stated, what must that of the poor little ones be, for they, from their very helplessness, are ever the heaviest sufferers in all social misery and neglect! Nothing is more difficult indeed than to starve a child rapidly to death. It is in old age alone that the feeble spark of life is at once extinguished by the temporary loss of accustomed sustenance; but children have wonderful powers of endurance, and a vitality which enables them to rally again and again under the influence of a single meal. The effect, therefore, of bad and insufficient food is not immediately recognised, though in reality it may produce more suffering and entail greater loss to society in after years than if the young were at once to succumb. Indeed, the least consideration must convince us, that the delicate frame of the young child is most susceptible to injury from the want of warmth and proper food, and that from this cause thousands fall early victims to consumption and other diseases; or, if they live are, through feebleness, unfitted for the duties of life falling to their lot. When children are fed on one shilling a week, can we wonder at the necessity for dispensaries, hospitals, and such like institutions? Is it a marvel that a generation so brought up is physically unable to compete in the labour market with men of ordinary vigour? As a matter, therefore, of pure economy, to say nothing of the interests of morality and religion, is it wise, in a national sense, that they should be so neglected? We spend millions in punishing and in attempting to reform the vicious, and, after all, our attempts comparatively fail. If only the poor little ones were relieved and properly fed at a tenth part of the expense of our convict system, we should do much to emptying of gaols in years to come, and with a tolerable certainty of success; not only diminishing the enormous expense which crime now costs, but replacing it by labour which is the great source of the national wealth.

THE EAST LONDON SHOE-BLACKS' HOLIDAY.

(From the Essex Weekly News of June 22, 1866.)

Of this excellent Society comparatively little is known in Essex, although the Shoe-black Brigades of the metropolis, of which this is a section, have

become an "institution"—we might almost say, an ornament—of the London street. In his "sturtout" of blue or red, the ever-ready shoe-black salutes the passer-by with the familiar interrogation, "Clean yer boots, sir?" and polishes you up, bright and shiny, "fit for anything," for a modest penny. This Society, or Refuge, was opened, we understand, in the year 1856, two years after the formation of the Shoe-black Society, and has up to the present time contributed to a very large extent to relieve those who from their unprotected condition would otherwise have been exposed to the many temptations which everywhere beset the path of the unfriended. It would be gratifying as well as instructive to visit the Refuge at 4, Mansell Street, Whitechapel, and inspect the various departments of useful industry conducted within its walls; where may be found some 90 boys usefully and profitably employed in brush-making, paper-bag-making, blacking-making, and ink-making; boys who, but for this Asylum, might be wandering idly in the streets, in the midst of filth, crime, and immorality. The "Home," however, is found altogether too small for the demands upon its resources, and it is greatly to be desired that an appeal to the public, who are ever ready to offer "voluntary contributions," will enable the Committee to extend its accommodation and its usefulness.

On Tuesday last, according to annual custom, an excursion was arranged for by the Committee, and Maldon was fixed upon by Mr. Samuel Wise, the Manager and Secretary of the Institution, on account of its pleasant situation, and from the fact of its being a "sea"-port. Accordingly, a few minutes after eleven o'clock, a special train, which left London at 9.20, arrived at Maldon amidst the welcome of hundreds of the inhabitants (who had made holiday in honour of the occasion), and the lively strains of the bands of the 1st Essex Engineers and 23rd Volunteer Rifles. The train contained all the boys of the Institution and about 400 friends. The whole company were speedily marshalled into proper order, and marched through the town, to the Fair-field, in right good style, under the leadership of Drum-Major T. Barton, drill-instructor of the 1st Essex Engineers. First came the bands of the 23rd Essex (Maldon) Volunteers; and 1st Essex (Heybridge) Engineers, numbering 40, conducted by Mr. J. Allen; next, the band of the "H" division of metropolitan police, numbering 20, conducted by Mr. Lake; then the boys, with banners, headed by two of their number carrying their shoe-blacking tackle upon their heads. On reaching the Fair-field, the youngsters appeared delighted, and entered with such glee into the various pastimes that the two hours before dinner—that great event of the day—passed by rapidly enough. One o'clock brought its inpouring of knife-and-fork candidates to the Public Hall, where a cold dinner was ready, to which the "youngsters" did their duty like men. The attack was business-like, and the defeat most satisfactory. The chair was occupied by the Mayor (G. May, Esq.), who was supported on his right by the Rev. E. R. Horwood, and on his left by J. Barritt, Esq. There were also present at the cross table, the Rev. O. Brock and Miss Brock, Messrs. P. H. Youngman, J. Piggot, J. Wells, T. Isaac, W. Waring, W. Adams, &c., &c.; whilst the balcony was graced with the presence of a large number of ladies, who looked down upon the animated scene with evident pleasure. About 200 sat down to dinner, and the tables were admirably managed by Messrs. W. K. Digby, G. P. Jay, W. Hum-

pherys, and E. May, who were indefatigable in their exertions, and deserve great credit for the labour of love thus voluntarily undertaken. Grace was sung most admirably by the boys under Mr. Wise's leadership. The toast of "The Queen" was drunk enthusiastically, as was also that of "The Mayor," the cheers of the boys being such as shoe-blacks only can give. The Rev. E. R. Horwood having addressed a few appropriate observations to them, and spoken favourably of the Institution, the boys were again marshalled to the Fair-field, where they again entered heartily into the various sports. "Horse exercise" was one of the features of the afternoon, and was productive of infinite delight to the lookers-on, the steeds having a busy time of it, as certainly had the riders, who went through a far greater distance in "up and down" movement than the horses did in a straight line! A bushel of nuts, and other fruit, had been provided by subscription in the town, and these were "scrambled" for, Mr. Gower resorting to the capital expedient of scattering them with a wooden shovel. The Union children, who were on the ground, came in for a share of the good things, one gentleman making use of his hat as the most convenient receptacle for their distribution. The boys then went down to the water, and a good many of them went on it in boats and smacks, while not a few braved the coolness of the air and water and bathed off the Bath wall, their gambols under the refreshing influence of the water being most grotesque. Three of the Brigade, who had taken a decided turn for a sea-going life, got into a punt, and amused themselves by paddling about till, late in the evening, they got to "Paddle Dock," where they lost their way, and were prospecting about the marshes till hailed by some of the natives, who assisted them across the river again, and they had to make a smart run over the fields to catch their train. The muster was strong at the Public Hall at five o'clock, when tea was served, and the corps of "Industrials" went to work with an unmistakable sense of business, and with as good a will as though their previous dinner never had an existence. A concert followed, performed chiefly by members of the London police, whose dreary duties must have been most lovingly interspersed with musical practice to enable them to obtain their certainly capital execution. The hall was packed almost to suffocation, even to the outer doors, the audience being almost too numerous to allow the singing to be heard properly, but the instrumental part vigorously toned down all other supplemental noises. Several glees and part-songs were sung by young voices of great beauty and power, and a lady (from London) who sang "Home, sweet Home," brought down the house by a perfect tornado of applause, and a demand for an *encore* that was kindly complied with. The excursionists, as soon as they could struggle forth from the dense crowd, made the best of their way to the station, and the "shoe-blacks," mustering under their ever-active Manager, marched down the town to the inspiriting music of the band. All got safely away without a single mishap of any consequence occurring throughout the day. The receipts at the concert amounted to about £6—the subscriptions being voluntary, under a free admission. The High Street and the Public Hall were gaily decorated with flags in honour of the interesting occasion. The refreshments were provided by Mr. Cable, of the King's Head, and it is no figure of speech to say they were excellent and abundant.

Correspondence.

EMPLOYMENT OF GIRLS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Dear Sir,—I was disappointed that in the May and June Magazine no notice was taken of the appeal on behalf of outcast girls of tender years, particularly those who are motherless, made in the April number, and some plans suggested how to meet the increasing evil; as none appeared, I once more trespass on your columns in behalf of these *forgotten* ones.

It is the ladies of London I particularly urge to give this subject their serious consideration, and to come forward with some practical and *economical* hints how to begin a work so much wanted. I asked a gentleman, a friend to every benevolent work, for help, but his reply was, no one knew better how much such Refuges were required than he did, yet it was for the mothers and daughters of England, and not for an unmarried man like himself, to carry out the work. There are many Homes for girls from twelve and upwards, but I can hear of none for the younger ones; it is the missing link in our wide-spread philanthropy.

There are Penitentiaries and Reformatories without number for those who have fallen or been in prison, so comfortable, and the inmates so kindly treated, it is almost a premium to do wrong; while for the very poor, if not of the depravest class, there is no Home for them I can hear of; and it is to prevent the necessity of so many institutions of that kind I now so earnestly plead, when a kind hand may be held out to help on the little girls till they are fit to do something for themselves. We know how much need there is for *more* domestic servants, and we will find more than half employed in London are from the country, while our streets are swarming with those who could and ought to, in time, earn a decent living, but how can they if let run about till *too late* to train them? Doubtless there is the workhouse for orphans or for widows, or for whole families, if they choose to go in; but our police reports tell, and our own constant experience affirms, how many children are daily *locked in*, or *locked out*, without almost food or clothing, by their unnatural fathers, and they are rarely informed upon, as the neighbours are afraid of the consequences. Till some law is passed to compel parents to provide for their children, we must not sit still and see them go headlong to destruction.

I lately had the pleasure of accompanying the Rev. W. Tyler in visiting the various institutions in Mile End New Town, where he has so successfully laboured for more than thirty years, and where the improved appearance of the dwellings and inhabitants show what *can* be *done* in the very heart of the worst locality in London. The King Edward Refuge and School is an excellent building, where there is a Home for girls above twelve years of age, and a large free school. Mr. Tyler said could he get a school-room built on ground he showed me, and removing the day school, there would be room to

receive sixty *little* girls at once. He entered into the plan of rescuing them before evil habits had taken deep root. Money and some good active ladies is all that is wanted to carry this plan out. Another suggestion made to me was, that wherever there was a Refuge for big girls there ought to be one for *small* ones too.

But I will add no more than the hope some plan may be *devised* and carried out before winter sets in, to rescue at least a portion of these helpless little creatures.

I am ashamed at again trespassing on your time.

I am, dear Sir,
Faithfully yours,
G. J.

12*th June*, 1866.

Poetry.

THE TEACHER'S WORK, AND HOW TO DO IT.

(*From the Report of Lambeth Ragged School.*)

"THAT the work of the Ragged School Teacher is peculiar and surrounded by many discouragements, no one acquainted with it can deny; and many excuse themselves from it, feeling, as they say, their unfitness to cope with its trials—but help can be given by many such, if they would only think and act as follows":—

Look round your neighbourhood with pitying eye,
And see the child that wildly runs the streets
In playful folly even at your door.
Has it a parent? Yes! perhaps it has;
But not to lead it into wisdom's ways;
Nor to direct its wandering eye to heaven,
Or guide its footsteps in the path of truth!
Take thou that part;—instruction thou canst give;
And lo! benevolence contrives a way
In which it may be done without much toil,
And without much expense. Heardest thou that sound
Which sweetly issues from that humble roof?
'Twas children singing the Redeemer's praise!
Again—they lift their little hands to heaven,
And bend their knees in prayer—then learn to read
And hear the words of everlasting life:
Thus do they sanctify the Sabbath day.
Who brought them there?—what condescending hand
So kindly leads them in the paths of life?
Oh! 'twas a pious band, whose glowing hearts
Felt for the miseries of our rising race;
Now they forego the rest the Sabbath yields,
Forego the pious intercourse of friends,
And hasten to the school—there to instruct
The children of the poor to know their God.
Join them, oh! my friend, in heart and hand;
Or, if the task of teaching be too hard
For health declining, or for strength decay'd,
Yet with thy prayers, thy friendship, and thy purse,
Assist, and comfort, and encourage those
Who deem no toil too great to save a soul.

Notices of Meetings.

MAIDA HILL REFUGE AND SCHOOLS.

THE annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of the Maida Hill Ragged and Industrial Schools and Refuge was held on Monday evening, the 30th of April. Thomas Chambers, Esq., M.P., presided, and was succeeded by W. R. Ellis, Esq.

After singing and prayer, Mr. Pierson, the Honorary Secretary, read the report, which gave an encouraging account of the operations of the past year.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated the Committee upon the success which had attended its efforts, remarking that the home which it provided in the Refuge was the best substitute which Christian philanthropy could provide for those who are deprived of the blessings of a parental home. He said that, though some scoffed at their efforts, he challenged such scoffers to account for the diminution in the number of juvenile criminals, except by attributing the decrease to the influence exerted by the Ragged Schools established in all parts of the metropolis. He pointed out that although Reformatories were in the highest degree valuable in their way, yet that such an institution as this was much more valuable, as prevention is better than cure; and that it is more to the interest of the community at large to make efforts to turn the poor destitute children into useful members of society, than to allow them to grow up to prey upon it by lawless depredation. In concluding he encouraged the teachers to persevere in their Christian labours, remembering that though they might not now see the full result of their work, yet it would be seen in the day of the Lord's appearing, to which we are all looking forward.

The Rev. E. H. CARR observed that sin is the originating cause of all the evil in the world, that society is of itself powerless to overcome it, and that Christianity is the only principle which can grapple with it. All moral life and vitality proceed alone from Christ, and his Spirit must actuate all the labourers in this work in order to ensure success. The early Christians loved the slaves, and the lowest classes present the greatest claims to the sympathy of Christians in our own and at all times. Our Lord himself preached to publicans and sinners. Tyndall, in translating the Bible, said, "I hope to make the clown that drives the plough better acquainted with the Bible than the learned;" and John Wesley especially chose the collier and mining classes for his own peculiar field of labour.

MARTIN WARE, Esq., urged the younger part of the community to come forward and give fresh life to the movement, because the original Ragged School workers, though still as earnest as ever, might be as they became older a little too cautious. He insisted that Sunday-work by no means interferes with the week's work, and urged that the very change of occupation affords rest both to mind and body. The kindly influence of the Sabbath's occupation in Ragged School work follows one through the week.

The Rev. C. CAMPE, in looking back upon the loss the school had sustained by the death of Mr. Bromley, thought there was great cause for thankfulness in having his place filled by Mr. Amor, who so largely shared his spirit. He (Mr. Campe) appeared as a beggar, with cap in hand, not so much for money as for the time, labour, and prayers of Christians as teachers. The work would try the temper, but that must not be a discouragement. It did people good.

Mr. AMOR gave a most interesting account of the various operations of the Schools and Refuge. He deplored the loss of many valuable helpers, and most earnestly entreated that others would come forward in their places. After mentioning several instances of boys who had once been destitute but are now doing well, owing to God's blessing upon the teaching and help afforded them by means of the institution, the meeting, which gave great encouragement to all interested in the institution, was brought to a close with a few remarks from W. R. Ellis, Esq., who succeeded Mr. Chambers in the chair.

HATFIELD STREET, GOLDEN LANE.

THE first annual meeting of the members and friends of the Golden Lane

Senior Band of Hope, in connection with the Golden Lane Ragged Schools, took place in the large School-room. The Rev. W. Ballantyne, M.A., presided.

The CHAIRMAN said he regarded that Band of Hope as an offshoot of the Ragged School, and, as they were all aware, Ragged Schools had done a vast amount of good throughout London, and in fact throughout the entire land. They provided a means for educating the young of the poorer classes that they would not otherwise have had, and at the same time gave them, as far as possible, a sound moral and religious training, and no one could possibly tell the incalculable amount of good they did. He need not tell them that he considered those schools were entitled to the warmest support and sympathy of all Christians, for the object they had in view was good. The Band of Hope was undoubtedly formed for the purpose of counteracting a great evil, and in a great measure its efforts had been crowned with success. There could be no doubt that intemperance was a great evil, a sin and a vice of great magnitude, and not only so, but it was the parent of a great many other sins. They could not look around them without witnessing the terrible scenes of misery, degradation, and crime to which drink gave rise, and any effort which was made to counteract this evil was entitled to their warmest support. He was delighted to see so many young people associated with that good object, and he was sure it would result in great benefits to them, both at the present time and in their after life. In belonging to it they were laying the foundations on which they could raise great moral superstructures, and so frame their future lives that, when they grew to the stage of manhood and womanhood, would not only prove of the greatest advantage to themselves, but cause them to be admired and respected by all who knew them. Then again they would derive advantages in an economical point of view by belonging to the Band of Hope, for if they placed the money they would otherwise spend in drink in the savings'-bank, they would find it amount to a very large sum in the course of a few years. Although he was ready to admit that that and kindred societies did a vast amount of good, yet it was his duty, as a minister of the Gospel, to tell them that that was not the main thing. They had a higher object in view than that, and which was all important for their future welfare. They should strive to obtain for themselves an interest in the great salvation which was in Jesus Christ, and as they sought him and learnt to walk in his steps, they would obtain the richest blessings, which would abide with them in all their pursuits. In conclusion, he congratulated them upon the progress made during the past year, and wished them hearty success in their undertaking.

Mr. HALL, the secretary, then read the report, from which it appeared that over 200 had signed the pledge during the year, although at the present time only about half that number remained *bonâ fide* members. The society held meetings every Monday evening, on which occasions addresses, recitations, musical entertainments, &c., took place, thus advancing morally and intellectually its members. A quarterly tea-meeting and entertainment is also given. It is gratifying to know that so young a society is entirely self-supporting, and the Committee in their report tendered their hearty thanks to the Committee of the Ragged Schools for allowing the use of their schools for meeting and entertainments, and also for giving the society their countenance and support.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. SEXTON, Mr. WEAGER, and other gentlemen, and at intervals during the evening selections of music and recitations were given by the Band of Hope. The pieces were beautifully sung, the children having evidently received a careful training, and the recitations were good. It would be difficult to describe the appearance of the children, who seemed the very picture of health and happiness, and whose faces were beaming with delight; and when one for a moment considers that but a short time since those very children were perhaps playing about the streets, depraved and neglected, the conclusion must be arrived at that these and kindred societies are indeed doing a good work.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the benediction was pronounced, and the meeting separated.

Papers, Original and Selected.

RAGGED SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THEIR NEED FOR SANITARY IMPROVEMENT.

NEXT to direct missionary work, no feature is more noticeable in our movement than those sanitary improvements which have been wrought through the *silent* or more direct influence of Ragged Schools. The work was originally undertaken as the only means of bringing home the Gospel to the consciences of the pagans of our great cities. But the history of Ragged Schools prove that a work begun solely for God, has been equally a potent work for society; and thus, without any anticipation of such a result, out of the higher object has sprung the lesser good. If, then, personal experience had not attested the truth, the records of our movement fully confirm the promise of Jesus, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be ADDED unto you."

A case may be cited to show how an effort to reach the moral evils of the destitute or criminal classes has materially affected their physical condition. When, for example, the Ragged School in Noel Street, Borough, was established, no street could be more foul to eye or smell. It was unpaved, undrained, and ill-lighted; and a common water-butt and a filthy closet open to the street, and common to all its inhabitants, old and young, male or female, rendered decency an impossibility. But the School had not been long opened before its lessons of cleanliness reached many of the parents; the hearts of the greedy landlords were at length also touched; and now these abominations belong to the history of the past. Nor is this all. Window gardening is carried on in most houses; and a recent flower show, from the beauty of many plants, proved that the air is pure and fitter for human beings to inhale than when first this School began its work for God and man.

All this, it is granted, is *not* religion, and consequently cannot be a substitute for that which alone can make man at one with God and society. But yet, in cases not a few, care for the physical needs of our poorer brethren has opened their hearts to the recep-

tion of the truth as it is in Jesus. Thereby, at least, we but imitate the conduct of our Divine Master, who, before he fed the masses in the wilderness, said, "If I send them away fasting, they will faint by the way" (Mark viii. 3). Moreover, when we strive to alleviate the physical woes of the destitute or the outcast, we but "gather out the stones" (Isaiah lxii. 10) which impede their march to the city of God. For, with filthy and over-crowded houses, decency cannot live; and where there is no decency, and immodesty is the rule, there is no soil in which to plant even moral virtues. Nor can we doubt that such houses act as recruiting sergeants for the gin-palace. Depressed, body and soul, by the noxious vapour inhaled, they fly to the pot-house to revive their drooping spirits, and thus strive to drive out one poison by introducing one still more potent.

We are glad to find that something has been done by lodging-house inspection and registration to mitigate the more glaring physical evils of Ragged School districts. Yet still much more has to be done before the houses of the very poor can be regarded as in such a normal state that we shall in future have solely to meet the moral and spiritual claims of our poorer brethren. Take, for example, the following photograph of Kent Street, Southwark, that notorious haunt of professional thieves. From what we personally know from repeated visits to that crime-garden, we can testify that the statements of "The Quiver" are under rather than above the mark; yea, no ink is sufficiently black to depict the physical and moral blackness which reigns in "Kent Street, which, with its numerous courts, intricate passages and alleys, may well be called 'St. Giles's over the water;' the tenements are quite as dilapidated, the inhabitants are quite as destitute; on the whole it would be difficult to decide which locality contains a 'deeper depth' of human privation and wretchedness. As you pass through it, you ask yourself whether there be such an official as a sanitary inspector in the district. In most of the courts, the closets are in such an abominable condition, that they are absolutely unfit for use. The cisterns are very small, badly situated, frequently without lids and on the ground, so that every child can dabble in the water, while vessels of all kinds are dipped in it—and so foul withal, that the poor people cannot drink it, unless they catch it from the tap as it flows in. You cannot enter these courts without having every sense offended. Were fever to break out here, as it did a year or two back, it would repeat its former ravages, while the deaths of its

victims would morally lie at the door, not only of those owners of house property, who take the poor man's rent and deny him, in return, that prime necessary of health, pure water, but also of the *sham officials*, who connive at such shameful neglect and such gross injustice. It is no uncommon thing for the inhabitants of a court to be entirely without water for weeks and weeks, through their landlord having a dispute with the Company. St. George's New Town, on the eastern side of Kent Street, looks well to the eye; but if you examine the cottages, which stand on undrained land, formerly a receptacle for filth of every description, you will find they are absolutely dropping to pieces, scarcely a roof is watertight, while the plaster of the rooms, having been made of *soap lees* and *street mud*, generates all kinds of vermin, so that in the warm weather the houses are positively swarming."

It is scarcely needful to refer to the over-crowded houses in the slums where Ragged Schools are rightly planted. As thirty to forty persons too often swarm in one house of six rooms, they become fever-dens or laboratories of cholera. Nor is this always the fault of these miserable men and women. For example, in order to obtain a site for the palatial mansions in Victoria Street, Westminster, many courts were pulled down, and our poor friends were compelled to tenant the over-crowded houses left intact. The same evil results have accrued from the railways, which now pierce the heart of the slums of London. Many Ragged Schools are already doomed. For example, from this cause the existence is problematical of the Schools in Crescent Place, Brompton; New Tothill Street, and Broadway, Westminster; New Street, Notting Hill; and Gravel Lane, Blackfriars. Already the attendance at the Ragged School in Whitecross Place, Wilson Street, Finsbury, has materially diminished, through no less than six hundred (!) houses—mostly tenanted by the very poor—being pulled down in order that the Kingsland Railway may be extended. Again, the School in Poplar Place, Bayswater, has decreased about one-third through a nest of courts being pulled down to form a site for another railway. Nor is this the only evil of a railway invasion, which, from the distress it causes, reminds us forcibly of the ravages of war. For costermongers and hawkers must live where they win their bread, or else become paupers or starve. Hence they are driven to cram their families into the already over-crowded hovels which remain.

Not one of the least evils of Ragged School districts is the presence of noxious factories, which verily vomit out fever and

cholera, and thus distribute miasma far and wide, not restricted to the districts where they are generated, but reaching, as they do, from the far east to Belgravia. During recent visits to Ragged Schools, we made the following notes of *external* sanitary evils, which the School managers were powerless to remedy. 1. *Princes Street,* Lambeth.—This school-room was pervaded with stenches from the adjacent bone boilers. Ofttimes, too, the fumes from the potteries renders the air dry and difficult to breathe. 2. *Gray's Yard,* Marylebone.—This school-room was pervaded by a sickening odour, as the stale dung outside was being removed. 3. *Amicable Row,* Kent Street.—The Secretary and School Agent of the Ragged School Union visited this School in July last. They observed heaps of stale decaying vegetable matter, disgusting to sight and offensive to smell, lying about in all directions. So long are these heaps permitted to lie in front of this School that the windows are ofttimes compelled to be kept shut to keep out the foul odours. 4. *New Tothill Street,* Westminster.—A faint but most disgusting odour came from the parish dead-house opposite: this evil has been at length remedied, but not before an appeal to Government was threatened. 5. *Horseferry Road,* Westminster.—The school-room was rendered most offensive from the stale grains of the brewery in the rear of the school. 6. *George Street,* Lisson Grove.—The smell was so unbearable that the visitor of the Ragged School Union inured as he is to disgusting odours, was compelled to leave the School. On inquiry he found that putrid offal was being removed from the adjacent slaughter-house. 7. *Lant Street,* Borough.—Foul smells from the neighbouring grease and candle factories pervaded the school-rooms, and the windows had to be kept shut to prevent vomiting.

Now, with *external*—and therefore, so far as the School authorities are concerned, irremediable—evils like these, can we wonder that fever should continually break out in Ragged School districts? Ought we, in fact, to be surprised to hear that thirty-nine scholars belonging to the School in Druid Street, Bermondsey, died of fever last autumn? Or that the School in Moor Street, Edgware Road, had to be closed for purification, as putrid fever raged in the district? Rather, we should infer, that it would require a modern miracle to be wrought to keep out plague or cholera from such terrible spots. But such an interposition we have no right to expect; for God never does that which he gives man the power to do; and, if we wilfully break his physical laws, let us not complain

if we suffer those dire penalties which are always annexed to the infringement of his laws, be they physical or moral.

How to remedy these physical evils, external as they are to our Ragged Schools, we know not. Yet, surely, when Christian men and women, impelled neither by greed nor by fame, but solely by the holiest of motives, seek to Christianise and socialise the pagans of London, the public ought to prevent the necessity, so to speak, of their carrying their lives in their hands whilst engaged in this arduous undertaking. It is true that there are sanitary inspectors in all those districts; but the question is this—What are they doing to render the "slums" of London, we will not say fit to live in, but merely to visit? Alas! scarcely anything is done to remedy these glaring evils, but more we think from fear than laziness; for, even when not afraid of the denizens of these foul courts, too many of whom, through custom, wallow in dirt and filth more like swine than human beings, they cannot forget than many of the houses, or rather hovels, they ought to indict before a magistrate, are the property of the heads of the parish; and thus they seem afraid that, if they interfere too much, their successors will be at once appointed.

Much then as Englishmen dread centralization, we think that the Government is bound to interfere to protect those who are powerless to protect themselves; for surely what is done to protect property, should be done to protect life. This might be done in one of two ways, either of which would be preferable to the present system. The parish might appoint sanitary inspectors, but subject in every case to a veto of the Board of Health; or the Board of Health, whilst it left the appointment of the sanitary inspectors entirely in the hands of the vestry, might appoint an inspector of the sanitary inspectors. By this course fit men would probably be appointed; not those who, careless of the interests of the poor, care alone to keep their posts, and to do as little as possible for their salaries. And, moreover, by this plan, instead of every separate parish having its distinct code of sanitary laws as at present, a uniform system, the result of united experience, would be applied throughout this great city.

At all events, whether the *inside* sanitary state of the Ragged Schools is properly devolved upon their managers, surely it is not too much to ask the public to remedy the physical evils *outside*. Let society but do their duty in this respect, and we shall then be able to restrict ourselves to our primary work—namely, to fit the outcast

for heaven; and not having also to exhaust our energies in coping with those physical evils, the penalties of which the rich feel as much as the poor. Nor is this too much to expect; for we may well say with Nehemiah, when engaged in a kindred work (Nehem. vi. 3), "We are doing a great work, so that we cannot come down: why should the work cease whilst we leave it?" Let, then, but society do its work for man, whilst Ragged Schools do their work for God, and it will be found in the sequel that our separate tasks were not antagonistic, but that by this divison of labour the pariahs of our great cities were both civilized and saved!

THE SCHOOL AGENT'S WORK IN LONDON.

THE following particulars we have extracted from the Report of the School Agent (Mr. Curtis) engaged in the Northern and Eastern Districts of the metropolis.

During the past year the following visits have been paid by me:—

Day Schools	590
Evening Schools	281
Sunday Schools	184
Conferences on School Business	47
Public Meetings	8
Social Meetings	5
Mothers' Meetings	6
Committee Meetings	12
Parents' Meetings and Working Men's Clubs	11
	1144

A new room has been opened in the Vinegar Ground, which is lofty and well ventilated. It is provided with a good gallery, desks, and every necessary fitting, and is capable of accommodating 120 children. Ward's Place School, now removed to Moreton Road, has had new premises erected, viz., one large room, admirably ventilated, capable of accommodating 200 children, used for Mixed Day and Week Evening Schools, Lectures, Sunday Afternoon Services, and Sunday Evening Mission Services; and another building, containing two rooms, one over the other, capable of accommodating 150 children, used for Infant Day School, Sunday Afternoon Bible Classes, Sunday Evening School, and Mothers' Meetings. In Charles Street East, the premises have been enlarged and adapted to school purposes, thus providing accommodation for 200 children. New Nichol Street has erected an additional good room for Infant Day and Infant Sunday Schools, and for Sunday Evening Services, capable of accommodating 250 children. Other premises, comprising one large room, two class-rooms, and retiring rooms,

are also completed, capable of accommodating easily 500 children. The whole comprise a provision for all the varied operations in connection with Ragged School work equal, if not superior, to any in London.

Black Lion Yard, formerly Osborn Place, has removed to spacious premises erected in Chicksand Street. Accommodation provided for boys, girls, and infants, to the number of 420, with a separate room for Mission Services, and class-rooms for men and women, and an Infant Nursery. Field Lane has spacious premises completed for the accommodation of their varied School and Refuge operations. Payne Street, Caledonian Road, is about erecting a building for Sunday, Mixed Day, and Infant Schools. John's Place School, Commercial Road, has removed into Philpot Street, distant about five minutes' walk. Cold Bath Lane School, Hackney, has removed to Homerton, more conveniently situated with regard to the children whose welfare they contemplate.

INTERFERENCE WITH NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR RAILWAY AND OTHER PURPOSES.

The whole of Ward's Place, Islington, including the schools, has been pulled down, and on its site a square of the Peabody Model Lodgings has been erected. The schools now in Moreton Road are a few minutes' walk from the old place, being the nearest spot attainable.

Railway extension has demolished wholesale the neighbourhoods of Field Lane; Lamb and Flag; White Cross Place, Finsbury; Bowl Court, Shoreditch; and Hope Street and Wilke's Street, Spitalfields.

NEW AND RESUMED EFFORTS.

Charles Street East.—Sunday Afternoon Schools, Week Day and Week Evening Schools (three times), also Ragged Church. Hartshorn Court, and Brackley Street, Golden Lane.—In each there is a Sunday School, Day School, and Religious Services. Bell Alley, Goswell Street.—Sunday and Week-Day Schools and Religious Services. Ernest Street, Mile End.—Sunday Afternoon and Sunday Evening Services, Week-Day and Week Evening Schools, and Mission Services. Bedford Street, Commercial Road.—Sunday Evening Schools, Sunday Evening Services, and Week Evening School twice a week. Chapel Street, Stratford.—Sunday Evening School. Rufford's Buildings.—Sunday Evening School for boys. Bateman's Row, Shoreditch.—Day School, Mothers' Meeting, and Evening School for girls. Hatfield Street, Golden Lane.—A Band of Hope and Bible Class for both sexes. Dove Row.—A Bible School on Wednesday evenings. Elder Walk.—Band of Hope, Girls' Sewing Class, Coal Club, and Extra Mothers' Meeting. Eagle Street.—Girls' School on two evenings. George Yard.—Penny Bank and Girls' Sewing Class. Wentworth Street.—Penny Bank. Little Camden Street.—Sunday Evening Service, and is about resuming Boys' Evening School, to be conducted by voluntary teachers. Bluegate Fields.—A Drum and Fife Band. Union Walk has added to their other operations a Day School. Milton Yard has resumed the Sunday Evening School, and added a school for girls on one evening in the week, conducted by voluntary

teachers. Upper Tottenham Place has resumed a Bible Class on Sunday evenings and the Evening School on two evenings. Clare Market has also resumed Sunday Evening School and Girls' Evening School twice a week.

Vine Street has added one more evening to their week-day operation, and promise to make every effort to renew their Mothers' Meeting. Northey Street.—A class for Conversation and Mutual Improvement among the elder lads. Keate Street.—An extra evening for Penny Bank. All its operations are likely to be conducted with vigour, under the superintendence of a recently-appointed diocesan missionary. Carr Street.—A visitor in connection with the schools.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In the north and east of London there are open in the morning 40; in the afternoon 64; in the evening 48. Total attendance about 13,000. During the past year two Sunday Evening operations have ceased—one in Bedfordbury, the other in Anchor Street—for want of adequate agency.

It is gratifying to know that in Rufford's Buildings, Clare Market, Holloway, Stratford, Bedford Street, Commercial Road, Ernest Street (Mile End), Upper Tottenham Place, and in three places in the neighbourhood of Golden Lane and Charles Street East, Sunday operations have been either originated or resumed.

During the past year, as in years previous, considerable difficulty has been experienced with regard to voluntary agency. One of our old-established schools complains of some decline in the attendance of children, owing to a falling-off in the supply of teachers, but they still add the gratifying statement that two from their senior class have become teachers, making a total of five who are now teachers that were formerly scholars.

But the decline can be remedied by earnestness and tact, as may be seen in the case of those who, not fainting under discouragements, are determined to try again.

At a meeting which I had the pleasure of attending, held in Northey Street, Limehouse, to which the teachers and their friends had been invited, after a social tea, a number of appropriate speeches were made. During the speaking a gentleman made the round of the room and canvassed for teachers. The result was an addition to their staff of fourteen occasional or permanent teachers. I have suggested that the following be adopted, either written or printed, viz.:—

A circular headed with the motto—

"Go work to-day in my vineyard."

Then as follows, say, for instance—

———— RAGGED SCHOOL.

OPERATIONS. { Week Day, Week Evening, and Sunday Evening, Tract Distributing, Sunday Evening Service, Visits to the Sick, &c.

OPERATIONS REQUIRING HELP.

Sunday Evening School, from half-past 6 to 8.
Week Evening School, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 7 to half-past 8.

Visits to Neighbourhood, Canvassing for the Schools, and seeing after Sick Children.

Operations Desirous of Establishing.

A Class for the poor depraved Girls in the neighbourhood, to meet three times a week for Secular and Religious Instruction.

Please state to which of the above operations you will kindly give your aid. Place your name in the blank space opposite. State as regards the Sunday Evening whether your attendance will be stated or occasional. Say what Sundays in each month, and specify particulars in regard to Week Evening and any other operation.

You will be so good, when this paper is filled in, to state your name and address, and return it to Mr. , Secretary. Address , or at the School, , between 10 and 12 and 2 and 4.

The above form will be varied in conformity with the present or contemplated operations of the school.

On the return of the papers enter the name and address of each person, with the name of the operation he or she has undertaken to aid. Take a blank card and write on it the name of the person and also the various operations they have promised to assist, and the dates of their promised attendance. State at the foot that you have furnished the card as an aid to the memory, and that as the promised help is relied on, in case of circumstances preventing their attendance, that they will kindly provide a substitute. To the above circular might also be added the statement that extraordinary aid is required for only seven months in the year, viz., from the beginning of October to the end of April, and, at the foot of the paper, the pertinent inquiry, What are ye doing for Christ?

I have also thought, for the furtherance of this matter, that in the month of September or October, meetings might be convened in different parts of London, two or three in each district, east, west, north, and south, to which all teachers and friends of Ragged School work should be invited. These meetings might be prefaced by a sermon in as many places as possible, not for funds, but for calling attention to the claims of our work. The meetings should be convened, not for conference, but for the delivery of stirring addresses by ministers, and by some of our very capable and energetic voluntary teachers. At these meetings the claims of Ragged Schools on the Christian Church should be set forth, specifying the period of the year that extraordinary aid is required, giving some statistics of the district, and, where required, urging to new efforts.

On such occasions the schools represented would have an excellent opportunity for the distribution of a School Circular similar to that suggested in this Report.

The local papers, at a suitable period of the year, might be used for their publication, and the matter should be continually referred to during the pressing season. They might also be folded up and addressed to persons in the neighbourhood of known Christian character, and placed in the pews of churches and chapels.

This plan is not to supersede that of personal influence, which is the more excellent way, but merely to supplement that. What can be done by personal influence is seen conspicuously in the cases of Elder Walk, Ward's Place, New Nichol Street, and many others that might be mentioned. It is of great importance to get persons of eminently Christian character, who are at the same time men of education or position, to take the lead in our work. They act with a strong magnetic force and attract a band of followers.

The attendance of the Day children at Sunday School is a matter that requires continual looking after. In a Day School of 90 I found 24 attending no Sunday School. In another school, out of 33 selected, 15 were absent on the previous Sunday, and 7 went to school. If the Day School and Evening School teachers, along with their weekly returns of attendance, were to furnish the number of those absent from school on the previous Sunday, an improvement in this matter would most likely be effected. The children and parents would see that their Sunday School attendance was a very serious affair. The Committee of Camden Town School has taken this matter seriously in hand, and great good has already resulted.

DAY SCHOOLS.

There are in the north and east of London 86 school buildings, in which are conducted 17 Boys', 14 Girls', and 82 Mixed and Juvenile; total, 113; with an attendance of upwards of 10,000 children. There has been an addition of 5 Mixed Schools during the past year.

Examinations.

All the schools under my supervision, excepting some two or three new operations, have been examined by me during the past year in Scripture Facts and Doctrine, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Tables, and Notation. The results, as collected from tabulated statement, are as follows:—Present, 8,631; examined, 4,164. Reading, good, 974; moderate, 981; failed, 2,209. Writing, good, 1,267; moderate, 888; failed, 2,009. Scripture, good, 650; moderate, 912; failed, 2,604. Notation, 3 figures, 1,215; 4 figures, 577. Tables, multiplication, 923; money, 908. Arithmetic, addition, 1,666; subtraction, 765; multiplication, 874; division, 334; money, &c., 167; 38 in higher rules.

I think that a formal statement of the examinations, &c., sent by the Committee of the Ragged School Union in future years to the Local Committees, would operate favourably on the schools, to which other statements might be appended, regarding sanitary matters, supply and state of school material, and the attendance of the children at Sabbath Schools, &c. It would be likely to increase the interest of Committees in these schools, and spur the teachers to make a fair show. In cases where Committees have usually sought for the statement, good results have already been effected.

That all the Committees approve these examinations may be presumed from the pleasure expressed by all those with whom I have come in contact. Very recently a member of a Committee in the east of London expressed his gratification on account of my visits to the school, and said the more frequent my visits and examinations were, the better the Committee would like them.

I still adhere to the plan of taking some chapter in the Gospel of St. John as a test of the reading. The reading an average verse fluently is marked good. The reading an easy verse, consisting mostly of monosyllables, moderate. So large a result is not obtained as would be, were the ordinary reading books and boards used for the purpose; but although, as previously stated, this method might display a certain amount of work done, it would not show the amount of really effective work, as it is a far easier matter to teach a child by the rotation of words than to give that definite knowledge which knows a word in any connection. They know that board, or they can read that book, it is frequently said. The board or the book is taken, and true enough the children can run it off trippingly; but on having recourse to a book, and taking a selection far easier, and presenting little words that must constantly recur, stumbling, hesitancy, and mistakes are constantly made; so that to obtain a knowledge of the mastery of the art of Reading it is found necessary to stand by the plan originally adopted. Writing.—In my last Report reference was made to the somewhat desultory way in which this subject is taught. It was then stated that—not only in Ragged Schools—many children were found that could write neatly and correctly from copy, who are unable to write the simplest word from dictation. It was recommended that the script alphabet in capital and small letters should be painted on a black board and placed in a conspicuous position in the school, that after the children have learned to make the elementary forms and the letters in their regular order they should be dictated irregularly, the children being required to find them out and copy them from the painted board. After a given time the slates should be inspected; the teacher should then write the letter in chalk on the blackboard, by which any mistake as to the letter or fault in the mode of its formation might be corrected. Subsequent to this, words of two or three letters might be dictated—that is when expert with the one letter—the children being required to find the letters composing them, either from memory or from the painted alphabet. On inspection the mistakes should be indicated and the copy set on the blackboard. Were this plan adopted, mistakes, it is thought, would not be so frequent. As an aid in this matter some script alphabets have been published by the National Society at three-halfpence each.

With regard to Scripture Facts, the proficiency is not so good as might be wished. This may be attributed to the want of systematic treatment, to the want of pictorial power, or pictorial illustrations, or to the teachers attempting too much. The children as a rule display a much more ready knowledge of the fundamental doctrines of salvation and moral precepts; but while rejoicing at the accomplishment of this, the greater matter, it would be a pleasure to see the other more efficiently done. The practice of committing texts to memory cannot be too highly commended; the soul is thus charged with the munitions of war to do battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Notation.—I find that Notation to three and four figures is still imperfectly known. 103 is commonly written 1003, and 114 is written 10014. Notation may be taught during the teaching of Addition by very easy stages. Thus: the children being able to make any of the figures readily, the Addition should be commenced by giving one column of figures, and these with very

young children should be low numbers at first, such as a series of ones or twos, the sum of the whole not amounting to more than nine. When this can be readily done, the numbers can be increased, so as to amount to more than ten. When some knowledge of the Notation of two figures is obtained, the sum should be dictated. Thus: the teacher says, "Fourteen." The children write down the number. The teacher then says, "Show slates." They are inspected; the pencil is drawn through those wrongly done. The teacher then writes the number on the black board, and so on with each number till the sum is set. The time will not suffice for the dictation of more than one sum each morning. A change may be made in any of the figures to constitute a new sum. The addition of a sum in two columns will have the result usually in three figures. This presents an opportunity for the Numeration and Notation of three figures. Proceed in a similar way up to four figures, which is as high in Notation as the children need go. Notation of two figures should be constantly practised, as mistakes in Addition and Multiplication are frequently traceable to ignorance of it. I will refer again in a word or two to the matter of Reading, in the teaching of which to children over seven years of age, and in the teaching of the alphabet and little words, a similar plan might be adopted. The whole of the children might be broken into two or three lots, and only one lot to be engaged in Reading at one time; the others may be employed in Writing or Arithmetic. Two of these lots might read in the morning, and one in the afternoon. I suggest this plan in order that they may be taken by the teacher for full twenty minutes. By this process all the children may be brought under the teacher once every day, and as the lesson would be to a great degree collective, it would not put too great a stress on the patience or strength of the teacher. After the twenty minutes the children may be left in the charge of a monitor or assistant to repeal or individualize the lesson. If there were three sections that would be not more than one hour to the teacher in one day of the more trying work.

TEACHERS.—A change of teachers has been made in fifteen schools. In nearly every instance the new teacher has been equal to the old, while in some instances the change has been decidedly for the better. Where urgently needed, Committees have been waited on or written to touching school-business requiring immediate attention. My opinion and assistance have been solicited either to name persons suitable for vacant posts, or during the period of probation to form and express an opinion of their fitness.

EVENING SCHOOLS.

The number of schools in the north and east of London are 43 boys, 35 girls, and mixed 24, with an attendance of about 5,000. Cold Bath Lane has ceased, not being permitted to hold an Evening School in their new premises. Bedfordbury also, but likely to be resumed. New operations:—Ernest Street, Mile End, two evenings; Charles Street East, three evenings, originally for boys, but now mixed; Upper Tottenham Place, two evenings; Eagle Street, two evenings (girls); Vine Street has an extra evening, and Darby Street, both now open on two evenings.

Very many of the schools, some for the first time during the past year,

have the help of one assistant, some of voluntary teachers, while others are conducted exclusively by voluntary teachers.

RESULTS.

It would be a good thing to have a record book in connection with each of our schools, to keep in memory special cases of usefulness. A rough book might be kept by the person at the head of each department; from each of which the more striking might be copied into the general record. From these the total results should be collected and tabulated, and the more eminent instances published in full.

The Old Scholars' Meeting—Lamb and Flag held their first on the 15th of January—presents an opportunity of getting at the position and forming an estimate of the character of those formerly in our schools.

A system of visitation to the children's homes, especially in case of sickness and death, would often disclose fruit that was quite unsuspected. The letters from old scholars, at home or abroad, are worth, many of them, consideration and preservation in their essences. Some schools are more careful in noticing and recording interesting particulars than others. Thus, Brunswick Street gives a letter from an old scholar, now a soldier in Burmah, expressing his love of the Bible. Whetstone Park records the happy death of three boys; Hoxton of the glorious departure of a girl. lare Market adds similar testimony respecting the death of a member of the Bible Class. Colchester Street continues the strain in testimony of the happy death of two scholars, and speaks regarding the piety and devotedness of teachers now who were scholars.

As samples of usefulness, we may mention that Brunswick Street sent 14 boys to the Red Shoe-blacks, 7 to the Islington Shoe-blacks, and 24 to the St. Pancras Industrial School, Gray's Inn Road. Whetstone Park had from their small school 30 boys admitted into the Central Red; 17 are now in, 8 being fatherless and 4 motherless. George Yard states that in connection with their Shelter, that 3,408 nights' lodgings have been given to 342 boys. Of these—

21 have entered the Shoe-black Society.
16 „ been sent home to their parents.
6 „ been sent to Reformatories.
8 „ „ to the Workhouse.
7 „ „ to Rag Brigade.
7 „ obtained Work.

In looking over the past year one is refreshed by the consideration that the same glorious spirit that originated the Ragged School movement still animates the hearts of its leading workers. The charm of novelty is gone that attracted the more excitable and superficial; but the good and true having faith in God and their work, and witnessing the earnest of their labours in the good manifestly accomplished, are nerved to continuous effort.

RAGAMUFFINS.

BY JOHN MACGREGOR, ESQ.

If you keep your head up, and look straight on as you push through our crowded streets, you will see what is an upper stratum of humanity verging on six feet high; and you may move in this for years without finding that, about two feet under the level of the man-life, there is a full current of boy-life also flowing in the crowd, quite independent of the other, and with its own looks and voices, and its own business and pleasures.

Now and then a shrill shout issues from a young throat on one side of the thronged Strand. Men do not hear it—at any rate, they heed it not—and certainly they do not understand it; but the call is from some invisible urchin to his unseen friend on the other side of the street, who hears it at once, and knows what it means too, just as the men do on the wharves by the Thames when strange shouts to "Bill" or "Tom" sound out of a thick river fog, and there follows a long, loud, unintelligible sentence from a waterman, addressing his particular friend on shore as he floats with the tide, on his great black barge, in a silent, misty morning.

Look a little down, then, and see this unnoticed boy-life. Nay, you *must* look down at it when a shoe-black points suggestively to your spattered boots, or a halfpenny box of matches is shoved into your hand, or when the ragged representative of "young England" flashes upon you upside down, flinging somersault on the *pavé*, all legs and arms, whirling about like the spokes of a wheel.

"Pirowit! Pirowit!" It is the cry of the Belgian boys as they run alongside the four-horse coach which takes you from Brussels to Waterloo; and they will turn you a "pirouette" if you first throw them a sou. But the London ragamuffin will "turn a wheel" first, and then trust to your honour on the omnibus for payment. It is a cruel thing for men to throw pence to encourage this trick in the streets; for the poor little fellows are rushing one way and looking another, and so they get dreadful falls. The roughest of them snatch the halfpence, after a fight. They are unsettled for honest work, and are tutored in begging and impudence, and tempted away to run far from home and school.

All you good people who have pennies to spare, do not throw them for a scramble, do not cast them from a bridge into the mud, that you may enjoy the struggles of children groping in the slush and squabbling for the coins: far better throw your pennies into the deep river at once. But why throw the pennies at all? Rightly given, they will pay for that mudlark's clothes, or be wages for his honest work, or will fasten a plank in that "School-ship" where the young gymnast may be happy and safe, and the human "wheel" may be turned into a British tar.

Not long ago a street-boy set up as a banker; yes, a *bonâ fide* banker, with a subscribed capital, a place of business, and regular customers. He posted himself near Temple Bar, on the pavement, while his capital was elevenpence-halfpenny. The customers he looked for were the conductors of omnibuses who were in want of change for a shilling; and when they

knew they could get this from the boy who ran after them on being signalled, they readily gave a shilling for the elevenpence-halfpenny which was to be had at once, all counted out, *without stopping the 'bus.* This boy said he made a good living out of these transactions.

One of the most singular phases of boy-life in the streets was mentioned by Mr. Gladstone, in his speech on the Reform Bill, as having been seen by him; and, as we happened also to notice the instance (a unique case let us hope) it may here be described. On a calm evening last winter three boys were seen to stop in a small street off the Quadrant. One was dressed like the parish clerk of a church, with a black gown; the second represented a clergyman clad in a surplice—probably an old night-shirt—and with a broad pink ribbon over his shoulders; while the third boy stood in front, bareheaded, as a congregation. Several youngsters soon collected about this motley group; and then the parson took a book and began to read the service aloud, while the clerk made his responses, and tried to sell printed papers of the words. This travesty of the Prayer Book was a gross and fearful blasphemy, and it began, "Dearly beloved brethren, starvation moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold wants and weakness," &c., &c. The parody went on to the prayers and the Gloria, while the juvenile crowd standing round looked puzzled and grave; for ribaldry sounds ill from childish lips. When we had brought a policeman to stop this shocking scene, he said it was a *ruse* to collect a knot of gazers, for these would usually be found to be just the kind of simple folk whose pockets can be picked.

To return, however, to more ordinary characters, there are the crossing-sweepers, a powerful, numerous, ubiquitous community, with most complicated rights and privileges, and jealously-guarded vested interests, as every one soon finds out who tries to meddle with them, either to suppress or improve them. It may be easily calculated that six-sevenths of the time of a boy crossing-sweeper is spent in running back and forward begging for money on his ground; and, as he may make twenty such journeys for a penny, it is plain that, if the boy could be paid without "dunning" for it, he ought to be able to keep seven or eight crossings perfectly clean. A plan of this sort was tried in Brighton, and also in London, with success; but it has become the duty of the Metropolitan Board to manage this matter, and perhaps, after they have arranged the sewage and embanked the Thames, they will turn their attention to the pavements, and abate the constant persecutions to which we pedestrians are exposed, being pestered at every crossing, and spattered from wheels in every narrow way, and importuned by beggars if we stop, or run over by omnibuses if we go on.

We are inclined to think that maimed or infirm paupers might be appointed as crossing-sweepers, including old women, if not too feeble to avoid being run over. Large sums of money are earned at present by such persons; and the following instance, stated to us on most reliable authority, is by no means unprecedented. An old gentleman, who had occasionally given a trifle to a crossing-sweeper at various times during eighteen years, was one day stopped by the man with a respectful salute, and "Beg your pardon, sir: will you allow me to say a word to you?"

"Certainly," answered the gentleman. "Well, sir, I shall be obliged if you will do me the honour to come and dine with me to-day at six o'clock." The gentleman, as may well be supposed, was amazed, and while he paused, the other said, "Don't be afraid, sir: I'll give you a good dinner." Finally he accepted, and went to the man's house, where his host was as good as his word, and, moreover, had other guests to meet his patron, and a servant to wait upon them. Next morning the crossing-sweeper was at his post with the broom as before.

As for beggars, of course many of them reap rich harvests by whining, or threatening, or staring in silence at the flags. An experienced beggar of the purely "lounger" class once said, "I can very well do sixty streets in a day, and it must be a *very* bad street indeed that does not give me a penny."

Street-begging has lately assumed a commercial aspect, from the fact that all members of the "profession" now pretend to sell something; and the readiest article for the purpose is a box of cigar lights, which can be sold for a halfpenny, leaving a margin of profit (how minute!) on the wood, the chemicals, the box, the paper round it, and the printing upon that. But there is a real trade in "lighters" at the omnibus stands, and the boys who sell these boxes convey their wares on long sticks to the customers smoking on the top of an omnibus.

Again, there is the artist who draws volcanoes and fresh mullet with brilliant colours on the flags, writing below his tableaux, "I am starving." He has indignantly refused a good offer of regular work at a scene-painter's —for a week's wages are not so much as a day's dole of the benevolent (yes, there are "casual" philanthropists, too), and a workshop is not so cheerful as the busy street. But we must pass him by, and look at the boys again.

Whenever street-selling is real trade, and not a mere "blind" for mendicancy, it becomes feasible to regulate it, and to educate and improve the youthful merchants and traders. Thus the hundreds of newspaper-boys, who buzz about like flies, might be made to collect their honey like bees if they were properly hived. One or two abortive attempts to do this in London have been made; but the thing is quite practicable, and it has been successfully carried out in America, where the business of newspaper-boys has been longer in operation than in England. A few years ago we had great satisfaction in visiting the "news-boys' home" in Philadelphia, where much good has been effected by an enterprising and benevolent Canadian gentleman, who is now in England.

The subject of boy-life in London is a large and interesting field for the ingenuity and energy of Christian philanthropy to work upon. It is more "workable," so to speak, than the harder soil of adult pauperism. In dealing with boys you have, after all, some pliant and supple natures, however crooked they may be in the twist given to the young twigs. There is a vein of humour, too, and of quaint oddness, which enlists the sympathy of a tender heart, while it provokes a smile—nay, a smile is needful, or you will fail here. There was a boy, for instance, in the Red Shoe-black Society, who, when visited by the inspector at his station, was constantly found to be standing upon his head instead of cleaning people's boots. On

inquiring why he amused himself in this strange fashion, he said he had been a "street acrobat," and was so often standing on his head (he gravely added), "it is necessary to do this now for my constitution." He soon got to work pretty well when he was proper-end-uppermost, but still at odd hours he was sure to be found at his old relaxation, and in a spare five minutes he would quietly adjourn to a wall where he could rest topsy-turvy in peace. But, while the freshness and stamina of an English boy may be unconquerable by want alone, rebounding into active energy speedily when he has work and food, there is often in the adult pauper a tired deadness of feeling, and sad disheartenment of hope, which make him a far different material to work upon.

Can you wonder at all this? What a dishevelled mind and body you would have if you passed through weary years, like his, in filth, and crime, and want. Two nights on a journey without sleep make you half stupid next day. The feeling of being unwashed, unshaved, and the hot eyes, and dull headache, is only bearable because you look forward to a good splash in the bath, and a change of linen, a cheery room, and a nice breakfast, the greetings of friends, the pleasures of business, and a charming sound sleep at last in a comfortable bed. The hapless pauper has had nights and nights of frowsy unrest in close rooms, or shivering open air, and days and days of nipping hunger, and months and months of deferred hope, and perhaps, worst of all, the conviction that much of his misery is his own making; but he has no food, no friends, no home, no "prospects;" and yet some of us expect the man to understand every word of an address in four-syllable English, to weigh our arguments, and accept our maxims, and to rise up, all famished and heart-broken, as fresh as the best of us, and then we are amazed or angry that he is so lazy and dull. Such a man is to be taken by the hand and by the heart. The love of Jesus for a wretched sinner is the best truth for him, and it is enough at first; but his poor body must be cared for too; for Christ did thus with men.

But, though we must try to do our best for the ignorant and destitute outcasts, and the criminals also of this generation, that is to say, the adults, we can, at any rate, certainly benefit the next generation if we lay hold of the boys.

Schools are necessary for all boys—ragged schools for many of them, refuges for the homeless, reformatories for the tainted, and prisons for the thoroughly bad. Many boys may be enabled to "live and learn" if they are set to work at once, even in the very streets where they were a nuisance to the public, and a misery to themselves.

The boys' refuges of London are not well known to the general public, who ignore or forget things they do not constantly see in their daily life. The support of these refuges depends, therefore, especially on more thoughtful philanthropists; and we may presume that the reader claims to be among this more reflective class who think that good things are worth searching for, and who would like to visit the street-boy when he is supplied with a home, and friends, and food, and work. Go to Field Lane Refuge, near Farringdon Street, to see, on a Sunday evening, the waifs of the boy-life current rested, taught, and befriended; look in at the Refuge in Great Queen Street on a week-day, to see the lads who are further

civilized by industrial work, and regular meals, and home discipline; enter the Boys' Refuge in Commercial Street, Whitechapel, where you will find a hundred younger boys trained to trades, drilled to march, and happy in the music of a band of their own; and if the summer flowers bloom on the green hedges, and you would like to see Christian work a little farther off, then visit the Reformatory at Wandsworth, with its fragrant gardens, or the "Home for Little Boys," at Tottenham, with its hundred tiny atoms of humanity saved from the great seething waves of a teeming city.

When these have been inspected, and the heart and head of the visitor are set at work to do at least something to help one or other of these efforts—even by *talking about them*, if in no other way—he will have discovered a new pleasure as well as an old duty; but if none of these institutions exactly suit his fancy—for at first one has wonderfully particular notions of what perfect machinery ought to be at work—then there are twenty more refuges in London, and a hundred and fifty ragged schools, every one of them worth seeing, nearly all worth helping, and most of them in their very sight a speaking sermon to tell what sin has done, and what Christ has done.

Even if all these have been unseen, an enterprise like that of the shoe-black societies cannot possibly be overlooked by any residents in the metropolis. The boys are in bright array, and occupy the most prominent posts in the most frequented streets; so every Londoner knows the shoe-blacks. It is beginning to be a long time since this shoe-black movement commenced, now fifteen years ago. There are seven societies of these boys, and, though their coats are of different colours, their principles, management, and system are all the same. There is a Roman Catholic society besides. All the ragged school shoe-black societies take boys selected from ragged schools in their several districts, and the boys are educated on week-days and Sundays in their respective schools, while they earn their livelihood by means of their work in connection with the society.

You will find them at the head-quarters of their particular corps at eight in the morning, and you can hear their hymn sung, and join their little prayer for a blessing on the day. Out rush the red-coats and blue-coats, the yellows, and the union-jacks (in sailors' garb), for their several stations, and for a good day's work. But stay: one boy seems to lag behind; he is lame and has a crutch. He will hobble slowly to his post, but he will quickly gather pennies there. That boy, when the subscription was suggested for the relief of the distress in Lancashire, put down fifteen shillings as his quota, saying, "I knew myself what it was to be in want." It is a good thing to find work that suits the lame boys. Or say that you come, about six o'clock, to one of their offices near Temple Bar, and see the lads return, put by their boxes, wash their blackened cheeks, showing roses where there was grime, pay in their earnings, lodge their savings in their bank, sit down to tea, *pay for it*, and then give full play to the boy politics and the *gamin* gossip which they have gleaned in a day's bright look-out among the busiest people of the greatest city in the world, or linger over coffee and the draught-board, or push the dominoes about with

their black paws of hands. 'Tis eight o'clock, and they are all off to school How *we* should yawn if we had to begin "pot-hooks" or "long division" after such a day's exertion!

The blue boys in East London will go to bed in their own refuge, and so will thirty of the hundred red boys in Mr. Hanbury's society far off in Paddington; and another set in the Limehouse brigade, and another at Islington. Others, again, will sleep at parents' houses, lodgings, or school refuges. Almost all of them would be better never to go "home." But, as they are leaving, you see one boy, with his cap, gravely stands collecting halfpence: it is a subscription for a sick comrade, and is, of course, "voluntary;" only you must give. They have an etiquette and little rules of their own: do not meddle with them.

Then comes the holiday, and the boys flock to see the bears climb for buns in Regent's Park, and the monkeys grin at the merry crowd, not exactly of their species, but all in red monkey-jackets; or it is the winter treat, and the boys eat cake, and get good advice after it; and their parents, too, are there to tea, and worn-looking aunts and sisters have now glad eyes as they look at the medal on that boy's breast.

The earnings in a year of the 350 boys are about £7,000. "But how do you know that they bring in all they receive?" Yes, that is an important question. We will only say that a halfpenny withheld dishonestly dismisses the boy, and that there *are* ways of finding this out, but they had better be inquired about privately when you visit one of the shoe-blacks' houses. In this kind of employment there is great temptation to embezzle money, and there is great inducement to be honest. Certainly it is a test of a boy's principles first to earn five shillings in pennies, and then to bring them all back in the evening, or to account for some by cakes and fruit; for this is allowed. Some boys are strengthened by such a trial, and they will be good servants and shop-boys after being so trained to handle money without letting it stick to their fingers. Others succumb. A little fellow lately, who swept a crossing, was so honest that he ran a long way after a gentleman to return him a half-sovereign given in mistake between two halfpence. He was twice promoted to be a shoe-black, and twice in a few days he had to be dismissed. This only showed that you must always be careful, generally be hopeful, and seldom be sure of the boys.

Wimbledon, in summer, resounds with the riflemen's shooting, and a thousand volunteers are in camp. You will find two tents there full of shoe-blacks. These boys are sent to other rifle-meetings also, far off in the country. And what a vacation tour this must be to London lads, who have so little notion of rural life that one of them calls out to the others, "Oh, come here, Jim; come and see the pigs in their *dens!*"

Shoe-blacks start sometimes on their own account. Some have a box given them by persons who advertise upon its sides; others have had to leave a shoe-black society, and they set up independently as "freebooters," who have indeed freedom, but lose status; though it is consolatory to know that, even when a lad has been dismissed from a society, he is generally found to have been benefited by its influence; and nearly always he retains some good teaching, as well as an affectionate remembrance of kindness, and the acknowledgment that he was well treated and justly discharged.

As for the good boys, they get into every kind of situations, and are disposed of as soldiers and sailors all over the world by thousands, whence many write with thankful hearts and very hard steel pens, "hoping this will find you well, as it leaves me at this present." Married shoe-blacks—formerly boys in the societies—now bring their progeny to see the present race of red-coats at their annual treat; and what shall we say of the emigrants? Sturdy boys from Redhill Reformatory are tugging away at timber in Canada, and pocketing dollars in the States; while the New Zealand volunteers that capture a "pah" can muster brave men who once begged in the Strand. To be greeted in a far-off colony by a rosy-cheeked youth, who was all rags and tatters, with hair like a mat, when you were first introduced, is one of the most delightful pleasures we have had—the sweet fruit ripened from a dingy seed.

Other plans for employing boys have been tried, but not with like success. A few years ago twenty boys were set to work to sweep the pavement in Regent Street and Bond Street, each having twenty shops at a penny each per day. Six boys were started as "message-boys," well clothed, and able to guarantee the safety of parcels up to £10; but it was found that bad boys did not suit for this, and good boys could earn more money with the blacking-brush. This sort of service is now well performed by the corps of commissionaires.

A few years ago, with great hope, and perhaps too lofty expectations, the "Rag Brigade" sent forth its red-painted carts, dragged and shoved by uniformed urchins, who bought the *débris* of office paper, kitchen-stuff, and other odds and ends often gladly given to them gratis. Then at the depôt, with much slow toil, this hotchpotch was picked and sorted into its elements and sold at a profit. This effort gradually languished, but it bids fair to live heartily again, as the Limehouse committee have revived the scheme; and they will look for your patronage and your cook's, hoping that your extensive correspondence may result in thousands of envelopes useless to you, and yet valuable to them.

Setting aside the children of paupers, it is estimated, on very good authority, that there are 60,000 destitute juveniles in London. Even if there be only half that number, it is truly a great crowd of little people we have to deal with; and, though all the agencies already enumerated are in full operation, we find thousands of children are still waiting for our help. The criminals among them are secured by the police as each young plant ripens; but, out of 3,000 juveniles charged last year in London, only 200 were sent to reformatories. We have thousands still left, you see, on the curb-stones. Some of these are only schoolless, others are homeless, others foodless, and it will not do to confound these classes in providing for each. If a boy is in actual need of a slice of bread, it will not do to give him a spelling-book, or what would be (in his language) "lots of jaw, and little to eat." Well, there is the workhouse for many of them, and the Union Industrial Schools, with whole armies of little folk born to penury, but pretty well cared for in these children's barracks. However, there are thousands who cannot get in there, or who will not go in; and do you blame them? In a fine summer day, when the street-boy can caper for halfpence, and buy his pudding smoking hot, and wander from park to river,

gaze at shops, run to that crowd to see a horse fallen down, perch on that lamp-post to watch a procession, lounge for a chat with his "pals," bathe in the Serpentine, or toss for coppers, and then have a fight, and wind up by an hour with stage brigands and music, while he cracks nuts in the pit of the "penny gaff"—why should *he* knock demurely at the door of an institution, and seek to hurry from the sunshine and bustle of life, and his positive liberty, into a quiet darkish building, with discipline, and hours, and a master, and a narrow cold bath? It needs the resolution which would make a Bond Street lounger enter a monastery. The boy's prudence is not provident enough to make him think where he is to sleep to-night until it *is* to-night, and how, then, can we expect him to think of to-morrow, and of next year, and of his far-on life? No, he must be often tired, wet, cold, hungry, unwell, and weary of his days, before he will think of entering a refuge; and while he hesitates, a hundred chances for petty crime occur. To be saved he must be sought.

Boys wandering thus were lately invited to a tea-party in the Great Queen Street Refuge, when 150 "accepted the invitation;" and, after the Earl of Shaftesbury had explained how it was wished to help them out of want and ignorance, fifty entered the Refuge next day, where you may see them now busy and decent little fellows.

The least we can do for such boys is to house, feed, and teach; but the most we can provide will, alas! be only half a substitute for a proper home and good parents. The refuge matron is kind and thoughtful, but she cannot be a "mother dear;" the refuge boys are comrades, but they cannot be for brothers to the strange child; and where is there for him a gentle sister, that jewelled link of the family chain?

Two schemes were then devised for their advantage—a "Country Home" and a "School Ship," and at once large sympathy and large contributions came forth to aid these. Both the Home and the Ship will, however, be out of sight, and the general public are apt to forget invisible objects; but, as both the projects will be connected with the permanent and tangible institution in Great Queen Street, it is to be hoped that constant support may be obtained for these new efforts.

The proposal for a ship is made after several successful experiments. At Liverpool there is the frigate *Akbar*, with 100 boys (sent by magistrates); and the *Clarence* and the *Indefatigable*, fitted up by £5,000 from Mr. B——; while there is a ship refuge, the *Havannah*, at Cardiff; and the school-ship, *Cornwall*, on the Thames, near Purfleet, where 200 boys are excellently taught and trained, the future Jacks for our swift clippers and our giant iron-clads, and some of them, perhaps, the admirals of days to come.

Sailor-life is just the thing for daring boys. The young sons of Britain take naturally to salt water, and they very soon learn their business; for London boys are far more clever and sharp than the Paris *gamins*—so we are told by one who knew the Quartier Latin for fourteen years, and the courts round Seven Dials equally well; so, when these precocious youngsters are captured before they are really spoilt, they make fine bold sailors, and, being sent far away from their old haunts and coteries, they have a new start in a fair field; for boys are now far better treated on board ship than they were some years ago.

Now it must be confessed that philanthropists are more ready to start a scheme of their own, with all its difficulties staring at them, than to take the part of citizens in established public institutions of benevolence. It is natural you should prefer to build a house or a ship where your committee can do as you like, rather than to spend days in visiting the workhouse wards under rules, or waste hours in battling with guardians, or in listening to the Babel of a vestry.

While admitting this, and that Christian men ought to be more gallant and less exclusive in their philanthropic action, it is quite undeniable that, even after the State, and the country, and the parish have done their full share, there will be boys enough on the street who ought not to be left wandering about as little beggars, until they end as big thieves. They must be laid hold of: who is to do it? Under the present law anybody may charge a young vagrant; so it is everybody's business, and that is why it is not done.

Private individuals have, now and then, ventured (sometimes unwisely) to "take this matter up;" but, as the police have already quite enough to do in the busiest quarters (and it is there these boys are, too), and are, moreover, not "required," but only empowered to charge vagrant boys,* and as private persons may get themselves into trouble, or may misapply the law inadvertently in their zeal, it seems to us manifest that some special police, or at least one experienced constable, ought to be appointed for this purpose by a central authority having public confidence, such as the Reformatory and Refuge Union, which includes representatives from the managers of about 200 institutions. Let us suppose that this benevolent beadle begins his rounds. He puts this boy into a reformatory, that one into an industrial school, the third he gets into a refuge, and the next into a ragged school. But still there are half-a-dozen more who are weakly children, and may be housed in the "Country Home;" while a score besides, whose noise and gambols tell they have heart, and muscle, and pluck, will all be marched off to the new school-ship. The news that such a special functionary had appeared in the streets would permeate London in three days. The really bad fellows would be deterred, and the really destitute would remain to be helped. The vile employers of street-begging children would fear to lose their poor little profitable slaves; and the honest parents who wish their boys to be saved, would see their way to yield them up, and even to pay their share when possible.

It may thus be presumed, from the operation of all similar causes, that the actual result in *deterring* would be immmediate and general, even if very few cases had to be dealt with as an experiment.†

But the school-ship has to be built? No; she has been given by the Government—a fine new frigate, too,

She has still to be launched, however, as a refuge for London homeless boys; and we must not forget that the iron-clad *Northumberland* stuck in her launching, because the ways had not sufficient inclination, and yet they got her off when the tide had risen high. Now to launch the school-ship

* Probably this defect may be remedied in the amended Acts which it is understood the Government will seek to pass this session.

† Since this was in type, the suggestion has been adopted experimentally.

there must be strong *inclination* also, and the tide of benevolence must swell its golden stream. It is, doubtless, an expensive project, but it is not *dear*. Much money is required, but more good will be done.

Let us, then, float the school-ship, and fill up her bread-lockers, and hoist the Blue Peter at the fore, that she is outward bound from penury and vice. Muster the young crew on deck, and loose the sails to a favouring breeze. Their voyage is begun. God speed the ship!—*Leisure Hour.*

THE TEACHERS AT SIR MORTON PETO'S.

By the kind and generous invitation of Sir Morton and Lady Peto, the masters and mistresses of Ragged Schools in the Northern district of London spent a very pleasant day at their residence, Chipstead Place, near Seven Oaks, on Thursday, July 12th. A train was provided to take the party, about sixty in number, from Ludgate Hill Station direct to Seven Oaks, where carriages were waiting to convey the company to Chipstead Place, a distance of about two miles west of Seven Oaks. Lady Peto and her friends, with Mr. Ware, jun., and Mr. Fordham, received the company, and gave a cordial welcome. The house and grounds were thrown open to the teachers for the day. A marquee was fixed in the grounds, under which dinner and tea were provided. After tea a meeting was formed on the lawn, presided over by Sir Morton Peto, when addresses were delivered to the teachers by the Rev. Mr. Lewis, of Notting Hill, and the Rev. Mr. Vince, of Birmingham, on the importance of the work in which they were engaged, and the happy results that had been worked out by them. The thanks of the meeting being proposed by M. Ware, jun., Esq., and Mr. Gent, to Sir Morton and Lady Peto, with their family and household, Sir Morton expressed the pleasure he, his lady and family, had in seeing a portion of the Ragged School teachers of London at his house, and hoped that on another occasion there may be a repetition of such a visit, when the numbers, he hoped, would be much larger. The company took leave of their host and hostess, and returned by the carriages to the station at Seven Oaks, and arrived safely at Ludgate Hill by about ten o'clock, having spent a day of peculiar pleasure, and without a circumstance occurring to mar the happiness of the day.

NEW ZEALAND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

INVERCARGILL.

In the Ragged School Union Magazine for November, 1862, an interesting article was published respecting the commencement of the Ragged School movement in Auckland, New Zealand. The inhabitants of the township of Invercargill, feeling the want and recognising the usefulness of such an institution, determined to start without delay a school in which such children should be educated free whose parents would not or could not pay a

school fee. A few friends met together to arrange preliminary matters, and a meeting was held on the 23rd of August, 1865, at the Wesleyan Church, for the purpose of establishing a Ragged or Reformatory School for Invercargill. The Revs. Messrs. Stobo and Shaw attended with a number of gentlemen, and it was decided to start such an institution immediately. A committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements for an early commencement, such as the obtaining of a room, books, &c. For the present it was thought advisable to hold school hours only during half days, instead of the whole day as at first proposed.

The Ragged School was opened on the afternoon of the 28th of the same month, in a store in Dee Street, until a suitable room could be obtained. It commenced with 25 scholars, and has continued to progress, the number now on the books being 52, namely, 33 boys and 19 girls, the average attendance being 43. The master speaks favourably of the general attention and conduct of the scholars, and there is little reason to doubt that this effort to furnish elementary teaching to the children of the really poor will prove successful. It is intended to work the school at a very small outlay, and by the co-operation of the number of Ragged School friends in Invercargill, who are favourable to so really useful an institution, this may easily be done.

Notices of Meetings.

FLOWER SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS OF ART.

DURING the past month Flower Shows and Exhibitions of Work have been held in the following schools:—

Nichol Street, Bethnal Green.
Carr Street, Stepney.
Fitzroy Market, Marylebone.
Ferdinand Place, Haverstock Hill.

In all of which prizes were awarded for the best-grown flowers, and for the handiwork that displayed the greatest skill and ingenuity. Many of the articles shown at the Nichol Street School manifested a degree of skill that indicated them to have been produced by a first-class artisan, rather than by Ragged School boys of only fourteen years of age. On examining these articles we could not help asking the question—Are they really and solely the work of the youth named? The reply received was—We have made all possible inquiry, and have been satisfied they are the *bond fide* productions of the boys. From these shows we augur well for the Ragged School Court at the coming Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington.

Papers, Original and Selected.

THE CHOLERA INVASION.

In our last number we furnished a pen-and-ink photograph of the sanitary state of the districts where Ragged Schools are planted. By facts, many and frightful, we proved that the sanitary condition of such localities was such that, if they were purposely selected as cholera plantations, the soil was fitly chosen to reap a plentiful crop of disease and death. Had, indeed, such spots been free from that fearful disease, cholera—born, as it is, mainly of dirt and filth—it must have been by means of a modern miracle. But such a miracle has not been, nor could it be expected to be, wrought by that God who is the author of both physical and moral laws, and who would not permit either to be broken without afflicting a fitting penalty. Hence sickness or death is the law of such districts, and men, prematurely outworn, become old in almost extreme youth. Such are the baneful results of men not reflecting on the Biblical query (Eccles. vii. 17), "Why shouldest thou die before thy time?" When the paper referred to was penned, we little thought that before our September number was issued, the cholera invasion in London and other great cities would have given such a terrible commentary on the statements then made. Frightful as are the ravages of war, we doubt if it bears more terrible fruits than does the outbreak of pestilence in our great cities. In both cases death reaps a rich harvest; and myriads of homeless babes and fatherless children weep over the dark past and still darker future. And though large subscriptions, headed by a donation by the Queen of £500, have been rightly given, and a cholera-home has been instituted to supply the wants of those fatherless ones, yet no amount of money can make up for a father's care or a mother's love.

The recent outbreak of cholera seems to have especially affected the eastern districts of London. There it has come in with all the fury, but with all the premonitions of an Egyptian plague. For in the miles of physical and moral wretchedness which compose the Far East, there have been thousands of cases; and it is no exaggeration

to say that in some lanes and courts there is scarcely a house where there has not been some one dead. For example, we learn that in a house in Spring Gardens—not West but East—six children belonging to one family were seized with diarrhœa, which in one case developed into cholera. In a house in Duke Street six deaths have already occurred. This house is situated next door to the "Three Crowns" public-house, at No. 1, Princes Street, and the landlord of the latter does not hesitate to ascribe the loss of life in a great measure to the state of No. 2, Princes Street. This latter house is let out to a great number of families, and contains, or rather contained, some twelve or fourteen children, two of whom have already been carried to the London Hospital. The ceilings of the house are toppling down, the place has not been cleaned or repaired for years, the closet is so choked up with filth that the soil overflows, and comes up in the wash-house behind the "Three Crowns," causing an unbearable and most dangerous nuisance. There is no dust-bin, and the rubbish—animal and vegetable—is piled close to the back-door, and cannot have been removed for at least a month, and, owing to the state of the closet, is becoming covered with ordure, There is no water-butt, an old barrel of small size being the sole receptacle for water, and this is placed close to the closet; and the only drain is untrapped. While such forcing-houses of disease are suffered to exist—and others as bad or worse could easily be pointed out in the surrounding districts—we must cease to be surprised that six persons are carried off in one house, and that whole families are destroyed in others.

The following particulars of the cholera invasion are gleaned from recent reports of the Registrar-General. Thus it appears that during the week ending August 8th, 1,063 persons died of cholera, and 354 of its allied disease, diarrhœa, in the London district alone. The deaths caused by these diseases during the four weeks ending August 18th, amount to something terrible. Thus we find that 3,366 persons died of cholera, and 1,176 from diarrhœa. Thus no less than 4,542 persons died of these allied scourges.

The Registrar-General states that—

It is a peculiarity of the case that the greater part of this slaughter in seven days of 1,253 people of all ages took place within a limited portion of the London area; 924 of the deaths, 811 by cholera, and 113 by diarrhœa, were registered in the six districts of Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile-end Old-town, and Poplar, including Bow, among about a seventh part of the population of London, and on one-fourteenth of its area. The attack extends all along the north side of the

Thames, from the River Lea and the Isle of Dogs to the Tower of London. Limehouse Basin and the Regent's Canal are the central line of the attack, which stretches as far north as Victoria Park. This is essentially the port of London, inhabited by its maritime population. The canals and the basins are full of foul water, and are apparently connected with the Limehouse-cut, the Hackney-cut, and the river Lea. The East London waterworks canal draws its supply from the river at Lea-bridge, where there is a reservoir, and runs for a couple of miles by the side of the Hackney-cut down to its other reservoirs north of Bow and near the Lea. The present cholera field derives its waters from these works. It is right to add that the water has hitherto borne a comparison with the other London waters in Dr. Frankland's analyses. To-day at Poplar the water looks clear, and no complaints are made of its quality. The company will, no doubt, take exemplary pains to filter its waters; but it is not easy to guarantee the purity of water drawn from such a river as the Lea, in dangerous proximity to sewers, cuts, and canals.

Whoever will take the trouble to go among the people now suffering in crowded dwellings will see the danger of the water-butt; poor women are washing the dirty linen of patients with water drawn from those vessels, which are often found close to the water-closets. It would be a source of additional safety in London if the tanks and butts were all abolished, and the pipes were filled on the system of constant supply. The time has come for this reform.

The mortality is overwhelming in some of the districts. In Poplar alone 145, in Bow 188 people died last week, including Dr. Ansell, the meritorious health officer, and Mr. Ceeley, clerk to the Board of Works, whose name figures on the placards. The people are falling ill every hour; you see them of all ages, children and adults, lying about their beds like people under the influence of a deadly poison—some acutely suffering, nearly all conscious of their fate and of all that is going on around them. Here the doctor is drawn in by the husband to see the wife now attacked; there the husband lies in spasms; here is an old woman seated dead, with eyes wide open; there lies a fine four-year-old child, his curly head drooping in death, but his mother says the pulse is strong, and he takes what she gives him. An older brother just recovered is running about. Several wards of the London Hospital are full of patients, many of them very young children, in all stages of the disease; some dying, some well again and playing. The medical men have no rest, and with the health officers are nobly doing their duty; brave men ready to lay down their lives for their patients. The people themselves are most patient; most willing to help each other, the women always in front, and none shrinking from danger. There is no desertion of children, husbands, wives, fathers, or mothers from fear.

Deaths from diarrhœa or cholera in small numbers occurred all over the London districts; in Kensington, Marylebone, Pancras, Islington, Holborn, the numbers were considerable. In the West districts of London 12 persons died of cholera; in the North districts 46 (including 19 in Islington, 20 in Hackney); in the Central districts 31, including 12 in St. otolph; in the South districts 47, including 21 in Deptford and Greenwich; while in the East districts 916 persons died of unequivocal cholera. Only 16 of the deaths from cholera occurred in one of the largest of the East districts, Shoreditch. The violence of the attack is still expended on Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile-end Old-town, and Poplar, including Bow. There is some subsidence in Poplar and Stepney, but increased virulence in Bethnal Green and Whitechapel. The attack has been circumscribed by nearly the same lines for three weeks in succession. This is no accident; *the phenomena is due to some specific cause.*

It is a noticeable feature in the present cholera invasion, that

children are more prone to become its victims than adults. Not only are they filthy in person, the clothed portion of the body being rarely washed, but their linen is generally as foul as their persons. Hence the poisons exuded by the pores are retained in the linen on the person, thus rendering the odour of too many Ragged Schools almost unbearable. We cannot, therefore, be surprised to learn that the epidemic chiefly takes the form of diarrhœa in young children; thus 302 of the 349 deaths from diarrhœa last week were children under five years of age, including 244 infants. Of cholera, 179 children of the same age died; 160 boys and girls of five and under twenty years of age; 455 men and women in the prime of life; and 110 people of ages above sixty.

Many parishes have at length—taught it may only be by fear, but still taught—awoke to the physical evils by which they are surrounded. Thus, after parcelling the parish into districts by house to house visitation, they have sought to cleanse alleys and houses which present a fit home for cholera. The hospital authorities, too, have not been slack in endeavouring to cope with this disease. This is especially the case with the London Hospital, Whitechapel Road, central as it is to the infected districts. Thus we find that from about the 11th July, when the outbreak first set in, the number of such patients steadily increased from three or four in the day to the maximum of 554, which was reached on the 23rd July. Then a comparative lull took place, and the numbers fell to about 270; but, the disease again increasing, on the 31st ult. 497 persons were prescribed for. A gradual falling off was observable after that date, and it is ascribed, not to a diminution in the numbers of those attacked, but to the opening, in various localities, of dispensaries where medicines and advice are given gratuitously to all who present themselves. In the week ending August 10th, the total number of deaths in the hospital from this epidemic was 80—exactly the same as during the preceding week.

Nor has the Committee of the Ragged Union, as trustees of the very poor, been backward in endeavouring to cope with this "pestilence which walketh at noon-day." Thus, last November, when there were rumours of the cholera march westward, they issued a paper of cautions and remedies to the local schools. This circular, entitled "The Cholera, and how to avoid it," was prepared, at their request, by Dr. Cross, of Spring Gardens, a member of the Central Committee, a physician who has had great experience in the treatment of cholera, both in Scotland and in India. Broadsheets and

handbills were forwarded to every Ragged School in London, and the large bills are so affixed in the school-rooms that adults may read them as well as the scholars.

The efforts of this Committee, however, have not ended with merely publishing cautions and remedies. Reversing the proverb "He preaches but does not practise," they have practised as well as preached. Thus, by a special vote, an ample supply of cholera remedies has been purchased, and by circulars they have been placed at the disposal of the affiliated Ragged Schools. This has recently given to our Office the aspect of a dispensary on a small scale; and the various Ragged Schools, especially in the Far East, have carried off large quantities of the medicines thus provided Nor has this been without large benefits to the infected districts; for many poor children have been snatched from the very jaws of death. In cases still more numerous, through the blessing of God on the medicines thus supplied, cholera has been stopped in its first stage, namely, diarrhœa.

We are glad to learn that some Ragged Schools are turning their school-rooms into dispensaries. This was for many years effectively done under the direction of Dr. Cross in the Ragged Schools planted in that fever-bed, Brewer's Court, Great Wild Street, and hundreds were medically treated every year. New Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, has now opened a cholera dispensary, where medicine can be obtained night or day. The committee of the Little Denmark Street School, Soho, are also about to open a similar dispensary. And should the cholera invasion still continue, though we are grateful to find that it seems to have spent its force, we trust that every central Ragged School will open a similar cholera dispensary for the poor, old and young, of the district. That this is desirable, the fact that above 3,000 cases have been already treated in New Nichol Street alone will testify.

But something more must be done, and that of a more permanent character, if we would prevent a future cholera invasion. It is time to leave off imitating the folly of the man who padlocked his stable after the mare was stolen. Hence we should seek to keep off the cholera, rather than to cure it. Thus an ample supply of well-filtered water, not drawn from a species of sewer like the river Lea, must be laid on in every house, and that in sufficient quantity to flush the drains at least once a week. The "slums" of the Far East must be kept cleaned as often and as well as the palatial squares of Belgravia. Dust-bins must be provided in every

house, and the refuse carted away weekly. Stale vegetable refuse must no longer be allowed to occupy the pathways and to corrupt the air, as in Kent Street, Southwark ; and horse droppings must not be permitted to accumulate until school-rooms, as is too often the case in Gray's Yard, Marylebone, are rendered not merely nauseous, but dangerous to teachers and scholars. The hovels of London must be regularly, and not as now, occasionally, visited by sanitary inspectors, men of the right stamp, who fear the frown of God rather than that of greedy landlords, men, in fact, like the helpers of Moses, who being able men, "fear God and hate covetousness" (Exod. xviii. 21). Magistrates, too, must do their part in this physical crusade, and inflict full penalties on those owners—happily not all—of property who care not how many victims die, so that they can add another pound per cent. to the interest on their original outlay.

Nor is this all. The very poor must be taught more fully the evils of improvidence ; they must be shown by public lecture or by private speaking, that drink and gluttony prepare fit victims for the cholera invasion. Women, especially in Mothers' Meetings, must be taught to "show piety at home," so that cleanliness and cheerfulness may do their part in warding off disease. Above all, by means of our Ragged Schools, the children of the poor must be brought to Jesus, and there learn the great lesson the world is so slow to acquire, that bodily health is best promoted by soul health. Then shall we fully realize the promise—very ancient, but not yet out of date—"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

THE FAR EAST, PHYSICALLY AND MORALLY.

In the *Morning Star* the following photograph of the east of London, by our earnest co-worker, Mr. McCree, recently appeared. It strikingly confirms the view supported in our leader, that filth and cholera stand in the relation of mother and daughter. In fact, cholera may be properly regarded as God's judgment on dirt, physical or moral. He says that—

"I have made several visits to the eastern parts of the metropolis, and can unfortunately confirm all that has been revealed of its sanitary and moral condition. No dweller at the West-end can have any conception of its crowded apartments, narrow alleys, swarming dogs and children ; slaughter-houses reeking with blood ; pawnbrokers' shops filled to repletion with the pledges of the poor ; factories, yards, and

workshops, all noisy, ill-ventilated, and very dirty; crooked, unswept, and unsavoury lanes, where every woman seems consumptive, and every man half-starved; beer-shops, the haunts of thieves, and gin-shops echoing with the gabble and blasphemies of heated, angry, wretched people; the famous 'Highway,' with its sailors, crimps, hawkers, soldiers, pickpockets, watermen, negro melodists, butchers' men, Lascars, dock-labourers, flaunting women, more cruel than tigers, policemen walking in pairs, ship-captains, with gay girls hanging on their arms, touts from boarding-houses, grimy stokers, Irish emigrants, beggars, and pugilists—in brief, its noise, dirt, crime, want, disease, and misery.

"Nor have the public generally any conception of the lamentable condition of hundreds of the children, and the boys and girls at the East-end of London. It is simply fearful. Sunday Schools, Ragged Schools, and Bands of Hope confer great benefits upon many of them, but the majority are shamefully neglected by their parents. Let any one walk through Poplar, Spitalfields, Whitechapel, Commercial Road, Ratcliff Highway, Aldgate, and Back Church Lane, as I have done, and he will see scores of children who are not children, but little withered imps of cruelty, falsehood, and vice. He will also see elder boys and girls who are the victims of the most precocious passions—hard, foul, repulsive, and savage—who hate the parents who forsook them, the law that punishes them, and the Christians who would fain reclaim them. He will hear them coin oaths with horrible facility, see them drink gin like water, and, should they quarrel, he will witness such a fight as will make him expect a murder.

"The twin monsters of this vast district of the metropolis are Dirt and Drunkenness. King Dirt is everywhere. There is a fœtid smell, a sickly atmosphere, which makes you feel faint and weary. Your lips grow clammy; your linen looks yellow; your hands get defiled; your eyes grow dim; you long for green fields, fresh air, flowers, and bright skies. But, alas, they are not near you; and if, perchance, you should pass some building with 'Ragged School' over the door, and looking in see a number of poor, white, forlorn children, who, when the teacher says 'Rise!' stand up and sing—

'There is a happy land,
Far, far away,'

you pass on with tears in your eyes, for you feel, alas, that the happy land is indeed 'far, far away.'

"King Drunkenness, however, reigns quite as much as King Dirt. There are thousands of sober men and women in the east of London, no doubt, and the Bands of Hope there will, it is anticipated, do much to produce a sober future; but any one who explores the localities infected with cholera, and also the contiguous parishes, will be shocked at the evident supremacy of drunkenness. Many men and women seem to drink apparently nearly every penny they can spare, and many which they cannot spare. Hence rags, desolate homes, crime, pauperism, and now pestilence in its most fatal form. I do not exaggerate the state of things. An agent of the London City Mission says—

"'There is perhaps more wickedness in Shadwell than in any other parish in London. As you walk through the streets, the scenes of wickedness that meet your eyes and the profane language that sounds upon your ears, cannot be described. If such wickedness is met with in the public streets, what is to be met with in public-houses, where men and women meet to practise wickedness, and to strive to excel each other in sin, and where that man is counted a king among men who can swear the loudest, and is most fruitful in inventing fresh deeds of darkness?'

"The prevalence of cholera in these parts is, doubtless, increased by the prevalence

of intemperate habits. Such habits are associated with late hours, unwashed bodies, filthy homes, predisposition to infection, improper food, heats and colds, debilitated constitutions, and a morbid fear of death, all of which tend to spread the pestilence. Thus, a woman, whose brother resides in Scotland, wrote to him for help in the present distress, and he sent her some clothing. She took it to the pawn-shop, thence she went to the public-house and got drunk. Both she and her daughter have died of cholera. Another hideous occurrence took place on Sunday last. The driver of a hearse on a 'cholera job' fell from his seat, and lay sprawling in the street, shouting 'Cholera, cholera!' He was drunk!

"What can be done to check this horrid vice? One thing might be done. Every publican who supplies liquor to drunken persons should be summoned before a magistrate, and fined in the most severe manner. No publican who allows men to get drunk on his premises, or serves them when intoxicated, should be permitted by the police to do so. It is a social crime for any class to profit by drunkenness at such a crisis as this. Drunkenness breeds cholera as marshes breed fever. Dr. Sewall, who visited the cholera hospitals of New York, states that of 204 cases in Park Hospital there were 'only six temperate persons.' I have before me an extract from a public journal which bears strongly on this question.

"The *Glasgow Examiner* of the 6th January, 1849, says:—

"'This malady (cholera), which towards the close of last week considerably decreased, showed in the early part of the week a considerable increase. That increase was foretold as a consequence of new-year festivity, and the prediction has been sadly verified. There can be no doubt but an uneasy feeling of alarm aggravated the disease. When alarm leads to care—to avoid all excess in eating and drinking—it is salutary, but when it is drowned in the bottle, disease is invited, and indeed induced.'

"It is evident, therefore, that any measures which diminish drunkenness will also decrease the pestilence.

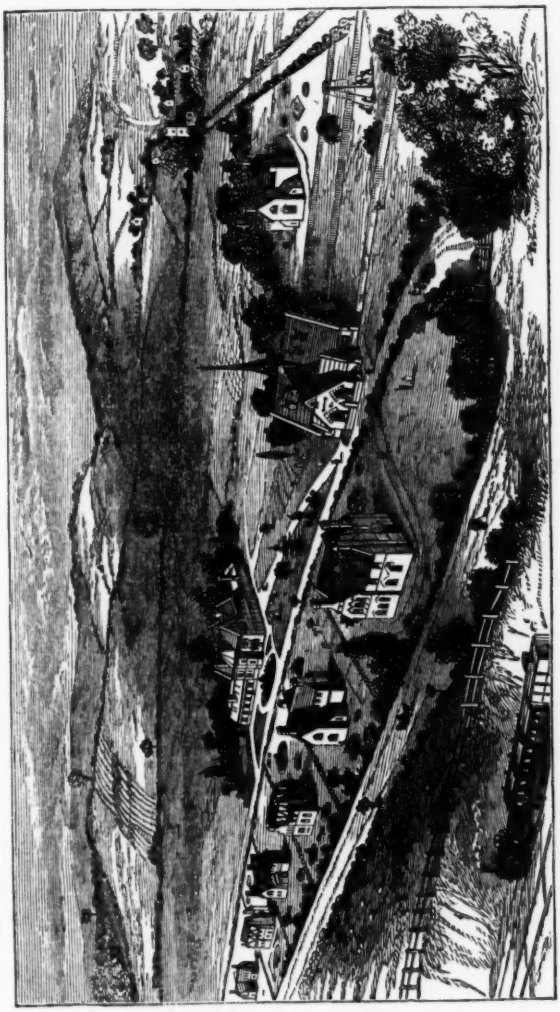
"I see that a night of prayer and humiliation is to be held at Bow. I perfectly approve of it, but let us not forget the wise words of the Dean of Westminster in 1849. He said:—

"'God worked no miracles to save the uncleanly and intemperate. It was a solemn mockery to pray to God to preserve us from disease if we took no pains of preservation after all our warnings; and if, having been unclean, we should be unclean still; and having been intemperate, we should be intemperate still; if we neglected the late solemn and serious warning, and should perish, the fault would be our own, and our blood and that of our children would be upon our own heads.'"

HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS.

In the same county that had the honour of welcoming the Princess of Wales on her first arrival at the English shores, her Royal Highness performed a very gracious act on July 7th, by laying the foundation-stone of the new "Home for Little Boys." This institution was originated some three years since by its present honorary secretary, Mr. A. O. Charles. Premises were taken at Tottenham in 1864, with the laudable object of feeding, clothing, educating, and training to industrial work homeless and destitute little boys, and those in danger of falling into crime, whether orphans or not, who are disqualified, by poverty and other circumstances, for admission to

existing asylums and institutions. It was found by the friends of the many Refuges and Industrial Schools of the metropolis and elsewhere that there



was great need of an institution which should be exclusively devoted to boys under ten years of age who were not criminal, but in danger of becoming so,

that they might be trained to a useful and honourable life. Under the presidency of Mr. Robert Culling Hanbury, M.P., and with the active co-operation of a good working committee, the institution has progressed so rapidly that the home at Tottenham has been found far too small for its operations. Trusting to the assistance of the benevolent public, the committee determined to carry on the good work on a much larger scale, and for this purpose a piece of ground, about nineteen acres in extent, was purchased at Horton-Kirby, Kent, three-quarters of a mile distant from the Farningham Road station on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. In the home at Tottenham the boys are congregated in one large house, but while making provision for the ultimate reception of three hundred lads in the new buildings, the committee will avoid the evil by erecting a number of separate homes in which not more than thirty boys shall live together. Each of these homes will be placed under the care of a man and his wife, who will be required to act as father and mother to the little ones under their charge, and will be held responsible for their moral training. The site is very pleasantly situate on a hill, and commands an extensive view of the adjacent country. A little below, the high railway viaduct spans a valley, and beyond, on the right, there is some beautiful wooded scenery. To the left a broad valley stretches far away, with high hills in the distance. The spot is one of the prettiest in the county. About 500 guests had been invited, many of whom left Victoria by a special train at twelve o'clock. The Prince and Princess left by another special train half an hour later. At Farningham the railway station had been decorated with evergreens and flowers, while on the roadway to the ground two or three arches of evergreens had been erected, with mottoes welcoming the Royal visitors. An escort of the Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry was drawn up at the station, and at the entrance to the grounds was a guard of honour of the 12th Kent Rifle Volunteers. Upon alighting from their carriage, the Prince and Princess were received by the President and officers of the institution, and Miss Hanbury presented her Royal Highness with an exquisite bouquet of flowers.

Mr. CHARLES having handed the Princess a bound copy of the programme, the ceremony commenced by the boys of the Institution, assisted by a choir under the direction of Mr. J. Proudman, singing a hymn.

The PRESIDENT then read an address to the Princess of Wales, which stated the origin and objects of the institution.

Her Royal Highness the PRINCESS of WALES was pleased to reply as follows: Gentlemen,—I return you my best thanks for the kind sentiments which you have expressed towards myself and the Prince of Wales. It is a great pleasure to me to take the part which I do upon this interesting occasion, and to further the efforts you are making to extend an institution the aim of which is to rescue from misery and crime those children who, from their unhappy circumstances, would naturally be beyond the reach of all influences for good. Sympathizing cordially with the object of this charity, and approving the method employed to give effect to it, I have only to express my earnest wish for its prosperity.

Mr. HANBURY, M.P., in requesting the Princess to lay the stone, said: In laying this stone we trust and believe that your Royal Highness is commencing a work of education and of home training which will be an incalculable

blessing to hundreds of the homeless and neglected children of our land, and the honour which your Royal Highness thus confers on the institution will be held in their lasting remembrance.

Her Royal Highness having signified her consent to perform the ceremony, Mr. T. Chatfield Clarke, the architect, submitted for her inspection the plans and elevation of the proposed buildings. A large coloured drawing at the back of the daïs gave a far better idea of the homes. In a cavity under the stone a bottle was placed, containing a report of the institution, and other papers. Upon the face of the stone was the following inscription:—"Home for Little Boys, established at Tottenham, 1864. This stone was laid July 7; 1866, by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. R. Culling Hanbury, President; W. H. Willans, Treasurer; A. O. Charles, Honorary Secretary; T. Chatfield Clarke, Architect."

Mr. W. H. Willans, the treasurer, presented the Princess with the trowel, which was manufactured by Mr. J. W. Benson, of Old Bond Street, of silver, partly gilt. The handle is enriched with carbuncles, rubies, and emeralds; at the top of it are the Prince of Wales feathers, fastened with a gold band and surmounted by a crown set with emeralds; below this is a band of blue enamel, with the motto, "Ich dien." In the centre is a large carbuncle, and above this the monogram of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, set in rubies, with the quotation, "Charity never faileth," supported by a crown enriched with emeralds. The blade, in a panel near the point, has a group of little boys engraved from a photograph taken from the lads of the school. Round this is graven a riband, with the words, "The angel which redeemed me from all evil—bless the lads.—Gen. xlviii. 16." On either side of the trowel are the national emblems—the shamrock, thistle, and rose; and in the broadest part an inscription, stating the occasion on which it was presented. On the reverse of the blade are the names of the officers, and an engraving of the houses and surrounding landscape. Having accepted the trowel, her Royal Highness proceeded to lay the stone. Taking some mortar the Princess dexterously spread it on two parts of the stone, finishing this part of her work with such business-like style that the visitors immediately surrounding loudly applauded her. Her Royal Highness, whose face was suffused with blushes, becoming aware of the earnestness she had displayed, seemed highly amused, especially when the Prince of Wales laughingly congratulated her upon her success. With this encouragement the Princess completed her task by duly taking the plumb-line and seeing that the stone was evenly laid, and then giving it a very gentle tap with the mallet, retired to her seat amidst the cheers of all present. Prayer having been offered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr. Harker, jun., the civic toastmaster, requested those ladies who had collected purses to present them to the Princess. The purses were deposited on a small table which had been placed in front of her Royal Highness, and not, as usual, upon the stone. The choir then sang "God bless the Prince of Wales," after which the Archbishop pronounced the benediction, and the ceremony was concluded. While the visitors were taking their places in the luncheon tent their Royal Highnesses were conducted to their reception rooms. These had been gratuitously furnished by Mr. J. L. Seaton, upholsterer, of Hampstead Road.

His Royal Highness presided at the luncheon, and proposed "The Health of her Majesty the Queen."

Lord Sydney, the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, then asked the company to drink the health of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Every Englishman, he said, was aware of the zeal and energy which the Prince of Wales had always shown in the promotion of philanthropic and charitable objects. He begged to say, on the part of the inhabitants of Kent, that they felt deeply flattered that the promoters of the institution should have selected a spot in that county. The men of Kent had the honour of escorting her Royal Highness when she landed at Gravesend, and it was an additional gratification to them to have had the honour of receiving her again that day. He now asked them to drink "The Health of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales."

The Prince of Wales, who was received with cheers, said: "I rise to respond to this toast, which has been so kindly given by the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, in a double capacity. I rise to thank you, not only in my own name, but also in the name of the Princess of Wales—(cheers)—who, on this interesting occasion, has taken the principal part in the ceremony. I can assure you, in her name, that she has been deeply gratified by having been asked to lay the foundation-stone of this Home for Little Boys, and so rendering some assistance to this interesting and most valuable institution. She gladly complied with the request so to act, and she now desires me to thank you for the reception which you have given her to-day. As was mentioned by the Lord-Lieutenant, this is not the first reception which she has had from Kent. This was the county in which she landed upon her first arrival in England. On both that occasion and the present she has received the most gratifying reception. I beg, therefore, to thank you most cordially for the honour which you have done us both by the way in which you have drunk our healths." (Cheers.)

His Royal Highness again rose, and said: "It is now my pleasing duty to propose to you the principal toast on this occasion, 'Success to the Home for Little Boys.' I am quite certain that this toast will be cordially received. I hope that the work which has been so auspiciously begun this day may flourish, and that the institution may be the means of conferring a large amount of good. As you are well aware, the institution was commenced in 1864, at Tottenham, but that place has now proved too small for the demands made upon it, and it is therefore necessary that the present steps should be taken for the purpose of enlarging its sphere of usefulness. As I have previously said, it afforded the Princess of Wales great pleasure to lay the foundation-stone of the first of the buildings which are to be erected. I understand that it is intended to afford a home for 300 boys, where they will be safely housed and cared for. This is certainly a very important work. There is one thing which I must not forget to mention, and that is, that great care has been taken that the Homes shall be so arranged that not more than thirty of these boys shall be together in one house, or in one of these Homes. I must also call on you before I sit down to contribute liberally towards this valuable institution. I say this, although I know that a great many purses have already been given. It is a further pleasure for me to be able to inform you that a kind friend and supporter of this institu-

tion, who has already given £200 towards the Building Fund, has signified his intention to-day to give another £200, on condition that £1,000 be raised. I beg to propose to you the toast of 'Success to the Home for Little Boys,' and with it to couple the name of your president, Mr. Hanbury. This institution owes much to him, and I hope he will be rewarded by seeing it prosper in every possible way. I now call upon you to drink the toast."

The President having responded, the Treasurer informed the company that the Prince of Wales had given £50, the Princess of Wales £50, and £10 10s. for each of their children, making them life governors. The announcement was received with hearty cheering.

The list of toasts, which was judiciously brief, having been concluded, their Royal Highnesses left for the railway station, where a special train was in waiting to convey them to town. Under the management of Mr. Charles, the hon. secretary, the arrangements were successfully carried out. The contract for the buildings to be at first erected—viz., the school building, the centre building, containing Superintendent's house, workshops, stores, bakehouse, laundry, and four dwelling-houses—has been taken by Messrs. Naylor and Sons, Rochester, for about £7,000, and an endeavour will be made to get the place ready for habitation by next spring.

A TRIAD OF RAGGED SCHOOL FLOWER-SHOWS.

MINT-STREET, Borough, is not exactly the locality to be selected by enthusiastic florists as the place best suited for the cultivation of their treasures. Light and air are scanty, and what little there is of the latter is of a dubious character in the nostrils of sanitary reformers. A loathsome taste of the Friar Street bone-steam, mingled with the flavours of the fried-fish shop nearly opposite; the frowsy evil-smelling dens (whose looks belie the inscriptions on their dingy windows, announcing *good* beds for travellers), and topped up by the perfumes exuding from the old clo' and second-hand boot-shop adjacent, which prevails generally, is decidedly offensive to the nostril of the stray passer, and in all probability the tainted atmosphere loses none of its repulsiveness on longer sojourn within it than is absolutely necessary to traverse its precincts. The sovereigns of the mint are not of the class likely to be found in the highest circles—in fact, many are so sadly affected with a propensity to kleptomania, that the very knives and forks of their wretched lodgings have to be secured by short chains to the table whence they eat their food, and the scanty coverings of their pallets are branded in large letters, "Stolen from the Mint," But it is your honest men, in sore need, your penitent delinquents, who form the chief representatives of the dangerous class in this quarter. Captain Macheath and Poll Peacham enjoy better lodging and country air in the suburbs. Notwithstanding these ugly facts, Mint Street and its neighbours supplied some 300 plants and flowers to a show held in the Lant Street Ragged School.

On the shelved platform, at the end of the room, were shown a number of bouquets, a cardboard model of the parish church (by Mr. George Saunders),

some skeleton-leaves, exhibited by Mrs. Manton, who shared with the Archbishop of Canterbury the pleasure of contributing the bouquets for sale, a specimen of the castor-oil plant, some flowers and plants kindly lent by Mr. Sherman, seedsman, of Newington-butts, for exhibition and sale, as well as some of the exhibitors' flowers. The latter were not remarkable for development of flower or leaf, but they conclusively proved that their maintenance had been a labour of love, and that care had been taken to train them up.

A similar floral fête was also recently held in the Ragged School in Ferdinand Place, Haverstock Hill. The exhibitors consisted of the children who attend the schools and their parents. The room was decorated for the occasion with flags and banners displaying various devices and mottoes; the principal and most important attraction, in this way, was the very tasteful manner in which Scriptural verses were made and arranged by the fair hands of the Misses De Morgan, from the picked leaves of the ivy and holly, evidencing very great pains and their great enthusiasm in the good cause, the letters being entirely formed of those evergreens.

One of the greatest novelties, in our estimation, was the display of the "Bouquets of wild flowers," the proximity of this Ragged School to Hampstead Heath enabling the children so easily to make a selection of such plants. Many persons, upon first seeing them, might deem them out of place, and to be a strange feature in a show of cultivated flowers; but a better acquaintance with the humble denizens of the forest and field teaches us better. To the poor town-bred Ragged School children they give great delight, and possess a deep charm, especially when roaming at will to gather them, to exhibit in rivalry with others for prizes of a substantial nature. The only exhibition of the kind they formerly knew of was

> "A pin to see my poppet-show,
> All butter-cups and daisies, oh!"

But now it is for shillings, which they can save and add to, forming thereby habits of prudence, and probably a means of success in after life. The love of flowers thus early instilled into these young minds, with the other benefits conferred by these schools, must realize great and good results, as they grow older, and the cultivation of plants will inspire them with such feelings and refining influences that they will look upon drunkenness, gin-shops, and other concomitant evils, with repugnance and disgust. The plants shown by the children and parents were hardly of an average quality with those we usually see in ordinary parlour windows; but we must not forget that these were grown principally in "sky-parlours," garrets, and small close rooms. The intention and design of these humble exhibitions are most laudable, and must have beneficial results.

We must also notice the band of fourteen well-clad juvenile performers, by which the gay scene was enlivened;—drums, triangles, and seven tin whistles formed this musical corps, led by the worthy schoolmaster, who certainly kept them well in tune.

The third of these interesting exhibitions was promoted by teachers of Robert Street Ragged School, and was as successful as the foregoing, in teaching the great lesson, that if plants cannot live without good air, neither

can human beings. This exhibition, which was started for the first time last year, had its anniversary on Wednesday, at the head-quarters of the 7th Surrey Rifle Volunteers, Kennington Lane, under the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The show was promoted especially with a view to improve the tastes and habits of the children attending the New-cut Ragged School, and also of their parents. No plants reared by professional gardeners were allowed to compete for prizes, although the Committee received any such for exhibition and sale for the benefit of the schools. For the display of the plants, a handsome marquee had been erected, supplied with stands. The judges appointed in the awarding of prizes were Mr. Broome, the well-known gardener of the Temple, and Mr. Kimmont, gardener to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Although there was not so large a number of exhibitors as last year, a better class of flowers was exhibited; and one of the most cheering features which the promoters of the affair desired to point out, was the attention which had evidently been paid to the plants by those who had reared them. The Committee were pleased to find that the exhibitors, most of whom lived in the back streets and courts of Lambeth, had, from the appearance of the plants, evidently looked well to giving them plenty of fresh air. This, the Committee were satisfied, would tend to do much good; for the people, finding that plants required such attention and plenty of air, would come to the conclusion that ventilation of their dwellings, and care and attention to their persons, would be beneficial, as well as imbue their minds with a good moral lesson. Considerable care had also been taken to make sure of the fact that the plants were really from Lambeth, and that they had not won a meritritious bloom by residence in the country. On one side, we noticed a stand of vegetables and bouquets of flowers, which, on inquiry, was found to have been sent by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the proceeds of the sale of which were to go to the funds of the schools. Our old friends, Joseph Payne, Esq., and Miss Twining, also offered special prizes.

But were our flower-shows to end there, their moral and social influence would be small; but during the work of preparation, hints as to cleanliness of dwellings, and of as much light and ventilation as possible being necessary to the life of the plants, were freely given, and in some cases acted on. Opportunities, too, were taken to whisper in the ears of some of the poor possessors of little pots of cherished mignonette or geranium of coveted bloom turning toward the sun from back attic-casements, that their pleasant fragrance and brilliant lustre were not merely intended to gratify the sense, but also that they were made by their great Creator—

To comfort man, to whisper "Hope,"
Whene'er his faith is dim;
For He that careth for the flowers,
Will much more care for him.

NEW LAW OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE following is an outline of the new Act for the Promotion of Public Health. We trust that its provisions will be fully carried out by the parochial authorities, and not be permitted, like too many statutes, to become a dead letter. Then, doubtless, not only will the houses of the very poor be rendered fitter for human beings to tenant, but the courts and alleys where Ragged Schools are planted will be freed from those disgusting nuisances which are perilous to life and antagonistic to decency.

The Act is divided into four parts, and the last has reference to Ireland. It has a general application in the United Kingdom, and is to be cited as "The Sanitary Act" of 1866. There are sixty-nine sections and two schedules. The first part has reference to the amendment of the Sewage Utilization Act of 1865. Special drainage districts are to be formed under vestries acting as sewer authorities, and proper drainage is to be provided, as also a supply of water. The second part has reference to nuisances. The Acts in force are amended. Houses may be inspected, factories and bakehouses, and means adopted to remove any nuisance. The districts are to be inspected by parochial officials. Premises are to be cleansed or otherwise disinfected. Any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder calling a public conveyance without notifying to the driver his condition, is to be liable to a penalty of £5. Proper carriages are to be provided for the removal of the sick, and places are to be provided for the sick poor being without proper lodging or accommodation, or lodged in a room occupied by more than one family, or being on board any ship or vessel. Places are to be provided for dead bodies and for the reception of dead bodies during the time required for *post-mortem* examination. In the third part of the Act, provision is made as to the inspection of lodging-houses. Any person with an infectious disorder exposing himself, or any person causing such exposure, is to be fined £20; and all lodgings used are to be disinfected before let again, under the same penalty. There are other sanitary regulations to be enforced, and special modifications as to Ireland.

POORS'-RATE ON SCHOOL-ROOMS.

SOME of our readers are aware that by a recent decision of the House of Lords school-buildings, as well as charitable institutions of all descriptions, are liable to be rated to the Poors' and other parochial rates. Having received many inquiries on this subject from the managers of Ragged Schools, we take this opportunity to refer to the present state of the question.

The operation of this new impost is not *yet* universal; but as the parochial authorities are compelled to assess such buildings, or render themselves liable to certain legal difficulties, the universal application of the law is only a question of time. In some cases within our knowledge the parish authorities have *by invitation* given the managers of schools and other charitable institutions the option of appeal, with a view to the *lowering the amount* at which

they should be assessed. In several instances meetings have been held locally, and the parliamentary representatives of the place have waited upon the President of the Poor Law Board to call his attention to the anomalies of the case, and to suggest that steps should be taken to remove the burden. These representations have not been successful, and we fear that some *general* and *strong* pressure will have to be put upon the Government to induce it to introduce an Act of Parliament exempting, at least in *school buildings for the poor*, from liability to such a charge. As it would seem that relief can be obtained only by this means, we think that a combined movement of Ragged School managers is required, in order that they may be relieved from this tax on voluntary labour.

The Committee of the British and Foreign School Society, in their Report just published on this subject, say:—"There is one subject to which the attention of your Committee has recently been called, and their counsel and aid invoked, which must not be passed over without distinct notice; viz., the charging of school buildings, in common with all charitable institutions, to the Poors', parochial, and other rates, a charge which it is understood *carries with it* liability to the payment of Property Tax. On the legality of this proceeding your Committee do not offer an opinion; to do so would be to impugn the decision of the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords; but they *do* note the fact that this decision is based upon an *Act passed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth*. That school buildings, unoccupied as a *residence*, erected and maintained chiefly by voluntary contributions, employed for purposes which directly and confessedly tend to lessen pauperism, and thus to lower the Poors'-rate, should be thus charged, is an anomaly so great and a hardship so real as hardly to be credible. To this Society it becomes a serious additional charge upon its income, and to Committees of schools, often struggling with difficulty and discouragement, it is both oppressive and irritating. It is hoped that, without the cost and labour incident to a universal protest and appeal, her Majesty's Government will interpose to revise an Act so obsolete by the early introduction of one more in harmony with the times and reign of Queen Victoria, whom God long preserve!"

PAID TEACHERS' EXCURSION.

PROBABLY no one enjoys a country holiday so much as the overworked labourers—mental or physical—of London. The mere fact that they toil in an atmosphere which savours more of death than of life, enhances the pleasure of breathing, for at least a few hours, the nerve-restoring ozone, brewed in Nature's laboratory. But, doubtless, the knowledge that they have not misspent the year, but that, working with a will, they have completed some worthy work, gives a zest to their holiday—for has it not been well earned?

But probably no class deserve more to be regarded as hard-workers than the Paid Ragged School Teachers of London. Most, as faithful labourers, work diligently "in season and out of season." Some of these have laboured for many years in pestilential atmospheres, neither stimulated by the stipends they receive, nor by love of fame, for most are unknown, but simply because

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they are constrained by the love of that Saviour who cares as much for the offspring of the outcast as he does for the children of the great. For the true-hearted salaried Ragged School Teacher rightly regards his work as a missionary one, and thus he labours solely for Jesus.

It was with a view of showing these earnest men and women that the Committee of the Ragged School Union sympathize with their varied labours, that they repeated the experiment of last year, and invited the Paid Teachers to spend a day with them in the country. About two hundred and twenty accepted their invitation, and proceeded by train to Bushy Park on Saturday, the 4th of August. Several members of the Parents' Committee, with the officials, were present. The day being favourable, the bulk participated in out-door pastimes, varied with singing their favourite hymns and school pieces; others strolled through the grounds and galleries of Hampton Court Palace, or merrily lost themselves for a time in that celebrated Maze, the entrance to which it is easier to discover than the exit.

After dinner and tea, which did credit to the contractor, Mr. Earee, a Gentile master moved, and a Jewish teacher seconded, a vote of thanks to the Committee, for thus kindly giving them another excursion. This being carried unanimously, the party left for the homeward journey, singing, as they marched through the park, the praises of Him who had given them a work to do both for God and man.

UNITED EXCURSION OF RAGGED SCHOOLS.

During the past summer, most of our day and night scholars have had a holiday in the country. The exact number that have enjoyed this annual "outing" we cannot tell; but we think, from the information supplied, that not far short of 20,000 have been conveyed by van or by train to the many beautiful spots in the suburbs of London. Epping Forest, Hornsey, Greenwich, Harrow, Dulwich, and Richmond, were the favourite resorts. Not only was such a day's absence from London during the present epidemic desirable, but it served to draw more tight the tie which unites teachers and scholars. Hence such excursions have a moralizing influence, the value of which cannot be exaggerated, and which more than repays the expense thereby entailed.

But, as in former years, there was still a large residue left of day scholars who, from the paucity of the local funds, had no prospect of an excursion this autumn, unless it was paid for by a special fund raised by the Ragged School Union. With the view of providing such a fund, our noble President addressed the following note to the Secretary, which met with such a ready response from many old and from some new friends, that the whole cost has been raised:—

"Dear Gent,—As usual, I venture to trouble the public by an appeal on behalf of the summer excursions for the Ragged School children.

"I can only state, as I have often done before, the testimony of all engaged in the superintendence of these schools, as to the happy and beneficial effect, in every sense, of these innocent recreations. "Truly yours,

"Shaftesbury."

About 1,900 teachers and scholars from 20 Day Schools, located chiefly in the cholera haunts of the East, proceeded to Petersham Park on Wednesday, August 8th, by special trains. There were also present 100 mothers, from St. Giles's, who were conveyed by vans at the sole cost of a committeeman of the Central Society. Two bands, one from the Grotto Passage Refuge, and the other from Ferdinand Place Ragged School, accompanied the excursion, and added much to the cheerfulness of the excursionists.

Although two or three showers fell in the course of the day, yet on the whole it was finer than could have been expected. The poor children enjoyed themselves as only Cockney children out for a holiday can enjoy themselves. Shall we attempt to tell how they ate and sung, and shouted and raced? Nay, for the pen of a Dickens would be required to give such a photograph. One incident may be noticed. A resident at Richmond having observed that several scholars were cripples and used crutches, he kindly gave money to hire a vehicle to carry them to the station on their homeward journey. Thither several cripples were conveyed in a chaise, amid the cheers of the children, by an earnest teacher who is also lame.

All arrived home safely. Profuse as the children were in thanks to those who paid the expense of the excursion, they were equally grateful to those upon whom its management devolved. All showed that there is no moral lever like that of Christian sympathy. For kind words and kind looks are ever the "Open Sesame" to the child's heart, especially to those neglected ones who form the staple of Ragged Schools.

L VERPOOL SHOE-BLACK BRIGADE.

An excursion of a very interesting kind was given last month by a few friends of the Shoe-black Society. The boys of this brigade left the Prince's Landing-stage shortly before one o'clock in one of the steamers of the New Ferry Company, and were taken alongside the *Indefatigable*, training-ship for destitute boys. The party, numbering 50, were then conducted over the ship by Captain Groom and his officers, that they might see the kind provision made for boys in the same condition of life as themselves. A very pleasing ceremony was then performed by J. J. Bibby, Esq. The boys of the ship and also of the brigade were mustered on deck, and one of the youthful sailors, formerly one of the shoe-blacks before he obtained admission to the ship, was called forward to receive a very handsome medal awarded to him by the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society, for having, in the month of July last, at serious risk to himself, gallantly jumped overboard to save the life of one of his shipmates who had fallen into the water. Although his exertions were unsuccessful, the Society considered that such noble conduct merited their notice. After a few appropriate remarks by Mr. Bibby, the medal was handed to William Rooney by the younger son of that gentleman. The entire company were then taken in the ship's boats to the New Ferry Pier, from whence they walked in procession to the works of Price's Patent Candle Company, where the excellent cricket-field belonging to the establishment was placed at the disposal of the Shoe-

black Committee, who had invited the young "Blue Jackets" to accompany their scarlet-coated friends of the brigade. The afternoon was very pleasantly spent in playing at cricket and running races in sacks, &c. Early in the evening the party adjourned to the spacious dining-hall adjoining the works, and were supplied with a good tea, with beef and bread. The two parties then entered into a friendly contest in singing, by which they showed that in both institutions they are supplied with means of recreation. This part of the entertainment included another presentation of £2 10s., which had been given by a few friends of the Shoe-black Committee to William Rooney, with the intention of providing him with an outfit when he is ready to proceed to sea. Mr. H. Duckworth handed this to him, and gave a few words of advice. The band of the brigade then struck up a lively tune, and the company moved away with hearty cheers for the attention which they had received, especially at the hands of Mr. Hatcher, one of the officers of the Company, who kindly gave each boy a small book and a bunch of flowers. They then walked back to the steamer, and the two sets of boys parted with many mutual expressions of kindness and good-will, and hopes to meet again.

Poetry.

WORK FOR GOD.

"He gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work."—MARK xiii. 34.

THERE is no little child too small
To work for God;
There is a mission for us all
From Christ the Lord.

'Tis not enough for us to give
Our wealth alone;
We must entirely for him live,
And be his own.

Though poverty our portion be,
Christ will not slight
The lowliest little one, so he
With God be right.

The poor, the sorrowful, the old,
Are round us still;
God does not always ask our gold,
But heart and will.

Father! O give us grace to see
A place for us;
Where in thy vineyard we for thee
May labour thus.

E. STRAFFORD.

Notices of Books.

Matthews' Easy Lessons. London: Houlston & Wright.

This is the second and concluding part of the lesson-book prepared by the master of Exeter Buildings Ragged School. Framed on the same principle as the former section, it supplies elementary lessons in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic, but for a more advanced class. In addition, there are some models of letters to friends, and specimens of bills of parcels, which will be found very useful. We need only reiterate our former commendation, confirmed as it is by the experience of many Ragged Schools where the first part has been in daily use, to the benefit of both teacher and taught.

We understand that both parts may be had in one cloth cover.

British Juvenile. London: Caudwell.

We have much pleasure in introducing this new monthly serial to our readers. The illustrations are many and good; but the matter is still better. We are glad to find it free from that semi-infidelity which has crept into periodicals, where the introduction of such a soul-poison could not have been anticipated. Thus, whatever the form adopted—whether in prose or in verse, by anecdote or by essay—Jesus Christ is pointed at not only as a model, but as the Redeemer.

The sketch entitled, "Ragged Boy's Victory," in our "Children's Gallery," will show the style adopted.

The Children's Gallery.

THE RAGGED BOY'S VICTORY.

Everybody, or nearly everybody, is talking about fighting;—battle in Germany, battle in Italy, battles that leave thousands of dead and dying men upon the field. Now we heard the story of a brave battle the other day, and we think you would like to hear it also. The battle was fought in the heart of a poor boy, and conscience was the conqueror. The boy, under great temptation, resisted and won a triumph over the wicked tempter.

John Manly was a street boy. He had neither father nor mother, and led a very hard life. He was often hungry and without food, and cold and wet, without fire, and tired and weary, without a bed. His was a sad life. He wandered about all day, looking wistfully for a stray copper. He would hold a horse, put the drag on an omnibus wheel, carry a load, help to push a heavy barrow—do all sorts of work for all kinds of people, for anything they liked to give him. Sometimes he would be seen about the railway stations when a train came in, offering to carry parcels twice as big as himself, and trotting under carpet-bags in which he might have been hidden. Generally, he was about the markets, trying to get a job, and then you might have noticed him helping to load or unload a cart, piling up green baskets and strawberry pottles, or perhaps entrusted by a tradesman to carry home some goods.

All through his troubles, John had remained honest. There was something

within him, he never stopped to inquire what it was, that told him to keep his hands from picking and stealing—and yet many times was he sorely tempted by the market boys to do as they did, and fill his pockets with stolen fruit. Many of those with whom he was forced to associate were thieves; they used to make sport of him because he was not one of them, and tell him how much they got by their "trade." If being sent to prison over and over again was a thing to be desired, they had enough of that; but John had no anxiety to share their pleasures or their pains.

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R. MOUNSTEPHEN.

8, Red Lion Street, August 20th.

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	Solid matter in 100,000 parts.	Organic and other volatile matter in 100,000 parts.	Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter.	Degree of Hardness.
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East London Company's water (average of one year)	27·98	1·62	·0504	21 12

It is the amount of organic matter contained in this water which is of especial importance in connection with the outbreak of cholera in the dis-

black Committee, who had invited the young "Blue Jackets" to accompany their scarlet-coated friends of the brigade. The afternoon was very pleasantly spent in playing at cricket and running races in sacks, &c. Early in the evening the party adjourned to the spacious dining-hall adjoining the works, and were supplied with a good tea, with beef and bread. The two parties then entered into a friendly contest in singing, by which they showed that in both institutions they are supplied with means of recreation. This part of the entertainment included another presentation of £2 10s., which had been given by a few friends of the Shoe-black Committee to William Rooney, with the intention of providing him with an outfit when he is ready to proceed to sea. Mr. H. Duckworth handed this to him, and gave a few words of advice. The band of the brigade then struck up a lively tune, and the company moved away with hearty cheers for the attention which they had received, especially at the hands of Mr. Hatcher, one of the officers of the Company, who kindly gave each boy a small book and a bunch of flowers. They then walked back to the steamer, and the two sets of boys parted with many mutual expressions of kindness and good-will, and hopes to meet again.

Poetry.

WORK FOR GOD.

"He gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work."—MARK xiii. 34.

THERE is no little child too small
To work for God;
There is a mission for us all
From Christ the Lord.

'Tis not enough for us to give
Our wealth alone;
We must entirely for him live,
And be his own.

Though poverty our portion be,
Christ will not slight
The lowliest little one, so he
With God be right.

The poor, the sorrowful, the old,
Are round us still;
God does not always ask our gold,
But heart and will.

Father! O give us grace to see
A place for us;
Where in thy vineyard we for thee
May labour thus.

E. STRAFFORD.

Notices of Books.

Matthews' Easy Lessons. London: Houlston & Wright.

This is the second and concluding part of the lesson-book prepared by the master of Exeter Buildings Ragged School. Framed on the same principle as the former section, it supplies elementary lessons in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic, but for a more advanced class. In addition, there are some models of letters to friends, and specimens of bills of parcels, which will be found very useful. We need only reiterate our former commendation, confirmed as it is by the experience of many Ragged Schools where the first part has been in daily use, to the benefit of both teacher and taught.

We understand that both parts may be had in one cloth cover.

British Juvenile. London: Caudwell.

We have much pleasure in introducing this new monthly serial to our readers. The illustrations are many and good; but the matter is still better. We are glad to find it free from that semi-infidelity which has crept into periodicals, where the introduction of such a soul-poison could not have been anticipated. Thus, whatever the form adopted—whether in prose or in verse, by anecdote or by essay—Jesus Christ is pointed at not only as a model, but as the Redeemer.

The sketch entitled, "Ragged Boy's Victory," in our "Children's Gallery," will show the style adopted.

The Children's Gallery.

THE RAGGED BOY'S VICTORY.

Everybody, or nearly everybody, is talking about fighting;—battle in Germany, battle in Italy, battles that leave thousands of dead and dying men upon the field. Now we heard the story of a brave battle the other day, and we think you would like to hear it also. The battle was fought in the heart of a poor boy, and conscience was the conqueror. The boy, under great temptation, resisted and won a triumph over the wicked tempter.

John Manly was a street boy. He had neither father nor mother, and led a very hard life. He was often hungry and without food, and cold and wet, without fire, and tired and weary, without a bed. His was a sad life. He wandered about all day, looking wistfully for a stray copper. He would hold a horse, put the drag on an omnibus wheel, carry a load, help to push a heavy barrow—do all sorts of work for all kinds of people, for anything they liked to give him. Sometimes he would be seen about the railway stations when a train came in, offering to carry parcels twice as big as himself, and trotting under carpet-bags in which he might have been hidden. Generally, he was about the markets, trying to get a job, and then you might have noticed him helping to load or unload a cart, piling up green baskets and strawberry pottles, or perhaps entrusted by a tradesman to carry home some goods.

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It is the amount of organic matter contained in this water which is of especial importance in connection with the outbreak of cholera in the dis-

trict supplied by this Company. The above results show that, in this respect, the water supplied on the 1st of August is considerably better than that supplied on the 1st of July, when the amount of this ingredient was markedly above the average. Chemical analysis, therefore, although it shows a larger quantity of organic matter than ought to be contained in water used for drinking purposes, does not reveal any exceptional degree of pollution in this water. It must be borne in mind, however, that chemical investigation is utterly unable to detect the presence of choleraic poison amongst the organic impurities of water, and there can be no doubt that this poison may be present in quantity fatal to the consumer, though far too minute to be detected by the most delicate chemical research.

I would, then, most earnestly recommend that, during the prevalence of cholera, the whole of the water supplied to the metropolis should be passed through animal charcoal immediately before transmission to consumers from the reservoirs of the respective Companies. For this purpose 300 tons of bone-black in the condition in which it is used by sugar-refiners would be required to purify the total supply of the metropolis, as I find that water passed at the rate of 1,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours through three tons of bone-black is completely purified. This operation, even when performed upon the water supply of London (100,000,000 gallons daily), would be neither formidable nor expensive. Three or four days would suffice to fix the necessary filtering-boxes, whilst the animal charcoal, being an article which is now manufactured on a very large scale, can be had on the shortest notice. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the water should be passed through the animal charcoal after it has undergone the usual process of filtration.

I have, &c.,

E. Frankland.

AN EDITORIAL TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Whilst reading the reports of Ragged Schools, we are often refreshed and stimulated by the striking facts narrated. Now, we have no doubt that very many such facts are yet unpublished which, if printed, as they ought to be, would serve to show how God is blessing our special work for *His*, not our, glory. Such illustrations of the good effected by Ragged Schools, or any suggestions which are calculated to advance our work, we should be glad to have forwarded for our editorial inspection. We cannot promise to use all such communications, but they would be received in a kindly spirit; and we doubt not that very many would appear in these pages, and thus refresh all who, as workers or givers, show that they care for the social and religious welfare of the pagans of our great cities.

We shall therefore be glad to receive any contributions at 1, Exeter Hall—whether in print or in manuscript—which the writers may think calculated to promote the great object for which Ragged Schools were devised. Contributors are requested to keep the three following rules in view:—

First.—Write legibly, and so save the eyes of both editor and printers.

Second.—Write concisely, and thus give facts rather than words.

Third.—Write *to the* point, and *with* point.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th of July to the 19th of August inclusive:—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. B.	0	10	0
Alcock, W. N., Esq.	2	2	0
Collison, H., Esq.	1	1	0
Crawhall, Mrs.	0	10	0
C. T.	20	0	0
Cure, Capel, Esq.	5	0	0
Deahwood, The Lady Elizabeth	5	0	0
Dixon, Rev. A.	10	0	0
Dixon, Mrs.	2	0	0
Ellis, J., Esq.. per John Vanderkiste, Esq.	0	10	0
Fisher, Mrs. H.	1	10	0
Gratton, Miss	3	0	0
Killick, Miss, col. by—			
Killick, Capt.	1	1	0
Killick, Miss C.	0	10	0
Killick, Miss L.	0	5	0
Rickards, Mrs.	0	10	0
Smith, Mrs.	0	10	0
Lucey, J., Esq.	1	1	0
May, G. H., Esq.	1	1	0
P. J.	5	0	0
Port, Mrs.	1	10	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Scott, S., Esq.	10	0	0
Shakerley, Dow. Lady	10	0	0
Sibthorp, H. A. M. Waldo, Esq.	2	0	0
Sibthorp, Mrs. Waldo	2	0	0
Smith, Mrs. J.	1	1	0
Smith, Miss	1	1	0
Smith, Miss N.	1	1	0
Snashall, Mrs.	1	1	0
T. W.	0	10	6
Watson, Rev. W.	0	10	0
Watson, Mrs.	0	10	0

School Fund.

Female Preventive, &c.

	£	s.	d.
Scott, S., Esq.	10	0	0

Lamb and Flag.

	£	s.	d.
Nalder, Mr. F.	1	0	0
Nalder, Mrs.	0	10	0

Lonsdale Road.

	£	s.	d.
Silva, Miss	0	4	6

Little Saffron Hill.

	£	s.	d.
To give a breath of fresh air to God's lambs	5	0	0
Shakerley, Dow. Lady	5	0	0
Cooper, Mrs.	0	4	0

St. Giles' Boys' Home.

	£	s.	d.
Mexborough, Dow. Countess of	5	0	0

Excursion Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Albemarle, Lady	1	0	0
Alcock, W. N., Esq.	1	0	0
Arden, Hon. Miss	2	0	0
Atkinson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Baker, Sir Edward, Bart.	1	0	0
Barclay, J. G., Esq.	10	0	0
Bennington, Mrs.	0	10	0
Bevan, R. C. L., Esq.	5	0	0
Bodkin, W. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Bodkin, Mrs.	0	10	0
Bodkin, Miss	0	10	0
Brettell, Thomas, Esq.	1	1	0
Buxton, Lady	2	0	0
Buxton, Travers, Esq.	1	0	0
Cairns, Sir Hugh, M.P.	2	0	0
Challis, J. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Cobb, F. W., Esq.	2	0	0
Cox, Rev. J. and Mrs.	1	10	0
Dalrymple, R. F., Esq.	5	0	0
Dixon, Rev. A.	2	0	0
Ducie, The Earl	5	0	0
Fortescue, Hon. Dudley	1	0	0
Friend, A trifle from a	0	2	6
Gage, The Viscount	0	10	0
Grestorex, J., Esq.	2	0	0
Hayter, W. G., Esq.	1	0	0
Holdship, J., Esq.	1	0	0
Kinnaird, Hon. A.	1	0	0
Mexborough, Dow. Countess of	1	0	0
Minshull, Mr.	0	10	0
Noel, Rev. H.	0	5	0
Paget, Hon. Miss M.	5	0	0
Paley, Mrs. C. A.	1	0	0
Payne, Joseph, Esq.	0	10	0
Payne, Mr. C.	0	2	6
Pollard, W., Esq.	5	0	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	5	0
Robertson, W., Esq.	1	0	0
Say, Major H. H.	2	0	0
Shaftesbury, The Earl of	2	0	0
Shakerley, Dow. Lady	5	0	0
Scott, S., Esq.	10	0	0
Sibthorp, H. A. M. Waldo, Esq.	1	0	0
Sperling, J., Esq.	5	0	0
Usborne, Miss H.	5	0	0
Ware, M., jun., Esq.	2	0	0
Webb, Mr. H.	1	0	0

DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS will be thankfully received at the OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY, by the Secretary, Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand; by Messrs. HATCHARD & SON, 187, Piccadilly; Messrs. NISBET & Co., 21, Berners Street; by the Bankers, Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & Co., 54, Lombard Street; and by the Collector, Mr. W. A. BLAKE, 1, Exeter Hall.

Money Orders should be made payable at the Post Office, Charing Cross, London, to Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, *Secretary*, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

The Furnishing of Bedrooms.

HEAL & SON having observed for some time that it would be advantageous to their customers to see a much larger selection of Bedroom Furniture than is usually displayed, and that to judge properly of the style and effect of the different descriptions of furniture, it is necessary that each description should be placed in a separate room, have erected large and Additional Show-rooms, by which they will be enabled, not only to extend their show of Iron, Brass, and Wood Bedsteads, and Bedroom Furniture, beyond what they believe has ever been attempted, but also to provide several small rooms for the purpose of keeping complete suites of Bedroom Furniture in the different styles.

Japanned Deal Goods may be seen in Complete Suites of five or six different colours—some of them light and ornamental, and others of a plainer description. Suites of Gothic Oak Furniture, Polished Deal, Satin Wood, and Walnut, are also set apart in separate rooms, so that customers are able to see the effect as it would appear in their own rooms. A suite of very superior Gothic Oak Furniture will generally be kept in stock, and from time to time new and select Furniture in various woods will be added.

Bed Furnitures are fitted to the Bedsteads in large numbers, so that a complete assortment may be seen, and the effect of any particular pattern ascertained as it would appear on the Bedstead.

A very large stock of Bedding (HEAL and SON'S original trade) is placed on the Bedsteads.

The stock of Mahogany Goods for the better Bedrooms, and Japanned Goods for plain and Servants' use, is very greatly increased. The entire Stock is arranged in eight rooms, six galleries, each 120 feet long, and two large ground floors, the whole forming as complete an assortment of Bedroom Furniture as, they think, can possibly be desired.

Every attention is paid to the manufacture of the Cabinet work, and they have just erected large Workshops on the premises for this purpose, that the manufacture may be under their own immediate care.

Their Bedding trade receives their constant and personal attention, every article being made on the premises.

They particularly call attention to their Patent Spring Mattress, the Sommier Elastique Portatif. It is portable, durable, and elastic, and lower in price than the old Spring Mattress.

HEAL AND SON'S

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF

Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bedroom Furniture,

Sent free by Post.

196, 197, 198, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD.

Printed by ROBERT KINGSTON BURT, of No. 84, Highbury New Park, in the County of Middlesex, at his Office, Holborn Hill, in the City of London: and published by Kent & Co., 21, Paternoster Row, in the City of London.—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1866.